



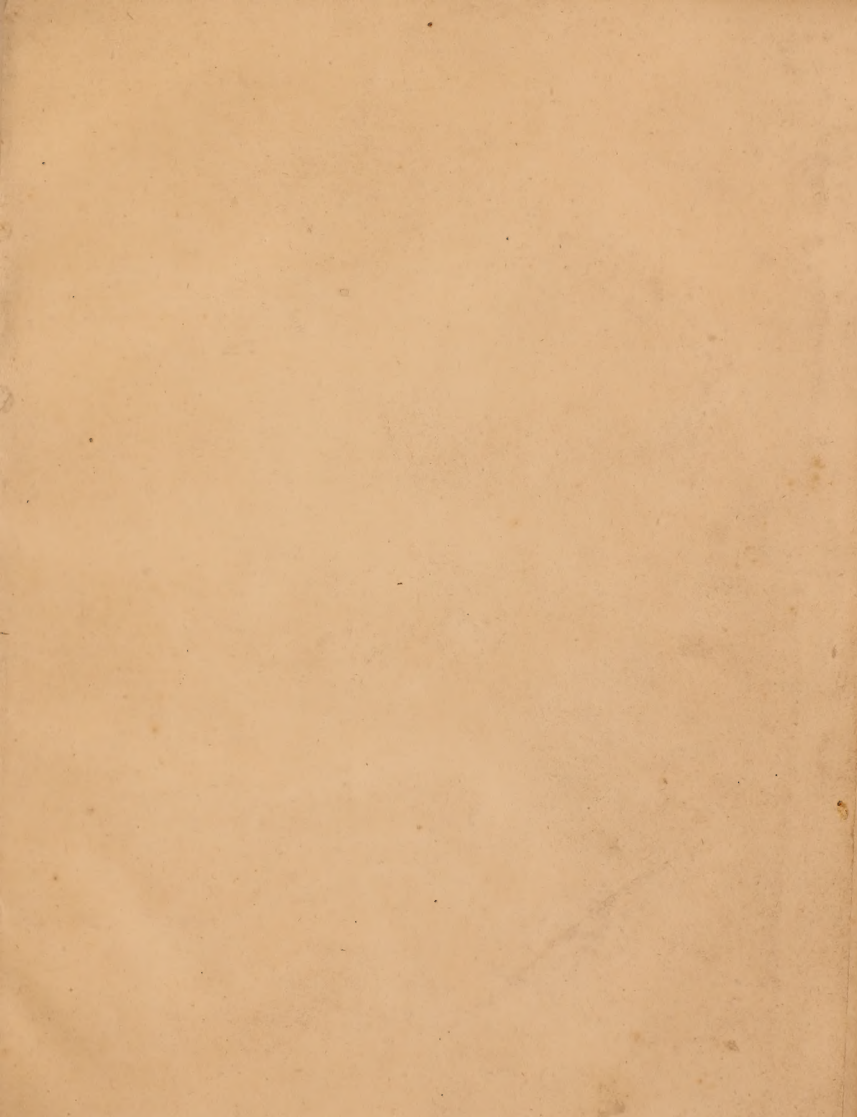




Ex Libris
JOHN AND MARTHA DANIELS

Sydney • Tlt

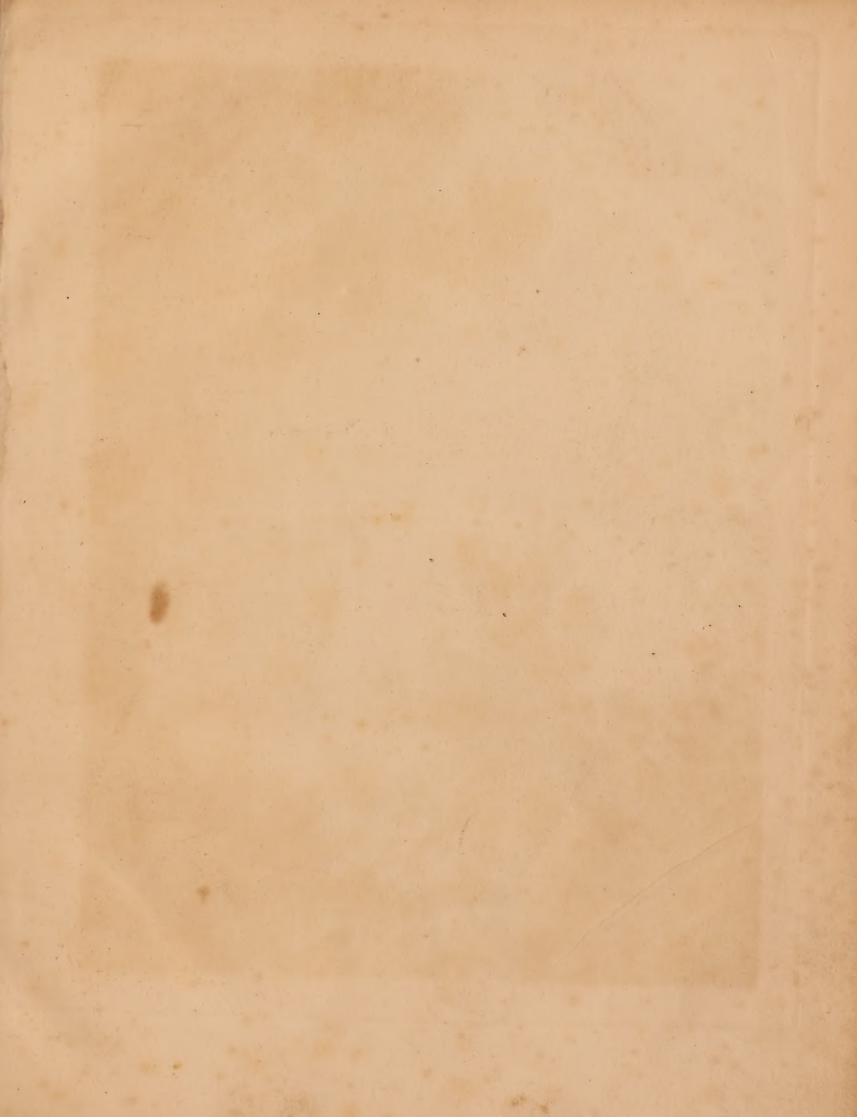
B. R. Pinn



vide page 92. & note.

It is difficult to conceive how this enormous exaggeration
misrepresents notice and creation - The narrative generally
is accurate & exact except, save that perhaps a
few pounds may be sometimes added to the weight
of fish taken, an inaccuracy not confined to our
author. The Colonel is keenly alive to the beauties
of scenery, which is proved by his taking as a
companion the accomplished artist Mr. Gussard
whose sketches so much enhance the merits of
this volume. - On many accounts it is a very
interesting work describing the Highlands as they
were more a hundred years ago.

Waverley (28)





INVERARY THE SEAT OF THE DUKE OF ARGYLE

1787. By John Kay, from a drawing by James A. Smith

General View

General View

A
SPORTING TOUR
THROUGH THE
NORTHERN PARTS OF ENGLAND,
AND GREAT PART OF THE
HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND;

INCLUDING
REMARKS ON ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE,

AND GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON

The State of Society and Manners.

EMBELLISHED WITH SIXTEEN ENGRAVINGS, BY MESSRS. MEDLAND, POUNCY, LANDSEER, FELTRO, ETC.

From Paintings made on Purpose, by Mr. Garrard.

By COLONEL T. THORNTON,

OF THORNVILLE ROYAL, IN YORKSHIRE.

DE GUSTIBUS NON EST DISPUTANDUM.

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L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR VERNOR AND HOOD, 31, POULTRY; CONSTABLE AND HUNTER,
EDINBURGH; AND BRASH AND REID, GLASGOW;

BY JAMES SWAN, ANGEL-STREET.

1804.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Highlands of Scotland, through a considerable part of which the following tour was taken, have been hitherto but little explored, though to the attentive traveller they offer a rich field for observation: to the sportsman, an inexhaustible fund of amusement. In these regions nature assumes a bolder style; rocks are every where heaped on rocks, and present, with the immense lakes, or rather seas, which they encircle, scenes the most interesting and sublime. The vales afford shelter, and yield an ample provision to their inhabitants, and fish and game of different kinds are every where found in abundance.

It will readily be perceived, in perusing the following sheets, the ostensible purpose of which, is to treat of Scotland as a Sporting Country; that it required a gentleman of Colonel Thornton's fortune, added to his knowledge of hunting, hawking, and fishing, to do, in any degree, that justice to the subject which it evidently merits; and, it will be acknowledged, from the great preparations for, and the manner in which the journey was undertaken, that no means were neglected which were likely to conduce to this end.

In a former excursion, performed on a much smaller scale, Colonel Thornton had occasion to lament the want of an artist, who could pourtray, with taste and accuracy, the numerous enchanting views he met with; and, to supply this deficiency, as well as to add to the interest of the present tour, he took with him Mr. Garrard, a gentleman of great rising merit, from whose masterly paintings the plates, which accompany the work, were engraved. The extent of the Colonels suit, and the magnitude of his equipage, were in a style equally liberal, and both took up a considerable time arranging. The necessary apparatus consisted of *two boats*, for the purpose of navigating the lakes and fishing; the one of them being appropriated to the accommodation of Mr. Parkhurst, the gentleman who accompanied the Colonel from London, and his attendants; and the other to the Colonel himself. These boats, together with a complete camp equipage, guns, fishing-tackle, and every article likely to be wanted, in a country where

ADVERTISEMENT.

they could not be so readily procured, were put on board the *Falcon sloop*, which was engaged for the expedition, and was manned with a master and two mariners. For land travel, in addition to the horses, there were the gig and two baggage waggons; and the party, which consisted of the Colonel and his friends, a valet, groom, waggoner, falconer, boy, and other servants, adopted the one or the other of these modes of conveyance as was found most convenient.

The project of an encampment originated with Colonel Thornton, and its utility was astonishing. By this means, three or four gentlemen, with their servants, hawks, dogs, nets, guns, &c. could be accommodated, whenever they saw any beautiful spot that promised to afford them sport, and might halt as long as they pleased, without being obliged to trust to the precarious entertainment of an inn. The Colonel likewise undertook the department of finding provisions, ammunition, sporting tackle, servants, hawks, horses, and dogs; and on him devolved the task of procuring and keeping a house, which was provided accordingly, together with furniture, servants, (including a *good cook*) gardens, grass for above twenty horses, hay, corn, stabling, and all suitable dependencies; they were thus enabled, not only to accommodate occasional visitors more conveniently, but to secure a retreat in case of bad weather.

It remains for the reader to judge how far a proper use has been made of these advantages, and of the merit of the following sheets. The Publishers have only to add, that the embellishments were executed under the immediate inspection of Colonel Thornton himself, and the respectable names of Medland, Peltro, Pouncey, and Landseer, will sufficiently vouch for their being a credit to the work.

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Page 1. LONDON. Acquaint my friends with my proposed tour. Engage Mr. Garrard*, an eminent artist, to accompany me for the purpose of taking views. Preparations and purchases for the journey. Leave London for Thornville. Name the two vessels engaged for the expedition, the *Ville de Paris* and the *Gibraltar*, and why. Sailing of the *Ville de Paris*, her crew and cargo. Housekeeper entreats to go the voyage. Dine with the Lord Mayor of York, and commemorate his Majesty's birth day.

3. Departure from THORNVILLE; beauty of the road. Reach *Aldborough*; its modern state; famous in the time of the Romans; celebrated for its numerous antiquities. Account of a beautiful tessellated pavement, discovered in the house of Mrs. Ellers; described, and a drawing taken of it, and a gold coin, by Mr. Garrard. Proceed to *Boroughbridge*; accompany Captain W. to view the *Devil's Arrows*, three singular pyramidal stones; of what composed; their situation, form, and dimensions. Hasten to Northallerton.

5. BEDALE, an indifferent town; Hall house, a large old family mansion. Speningthorne, romantically situated. *Marske*, a Gothic pile, its park, &c.; see the *stud* on sale, and proceed to

6. RICHMOND. Beautiful situation of this town; derivation of its name, buildings, &c. fine views around it. Road to Topcliffe excellent. Newby, with its plantations, the seat of Lord Grantham. *Cutton Moor*, famous for the battle of the *Standards*, fought in 1138. Fine views on the road. Reach Northallerton; hospitably entertained by Mr. L. Arrive at Darlington. Approach Durham; pronunciation and appearance of the natives begin to change.

8. DURHAM. Grand view from the prebend's bridge; its singularly romantic situation, as seen from the Red Lion inn. Visit the cathedral, bishop's castle, &c. fine rides around the city. Bywell, a good modern seat. Account of *Matchem*, a well-known horse. Road between Durham and Newcastle described, and grand entrance to the latter. NEWCASTLE: uncomfortable accommodations for the races; cock-fighting, the favourite diversion. Mr. Garrard arrives with his drawings. Improvements on Mr. Brandling's estates. Inn at Morpeth. Speak to King the dog-breaker. *Weldon Mill*; bad road. Beauty of the river Cocket and its fine fishing. Beset by a furious mastiff, and with difficulty disengage ourselves. Anecdote of a similar accident which occurred in France. Wooller Haugh Head, Milfield Plain, &c.

9. Fish the *Tiviot* with Mr. P. and joke with him on his method of angling; kill a pike of eleven pounds, and some smaller fish. *Mindrum Mills*, its fine situation. Attempt *Loch Wacup*, but unsuccessful: *Kettivakes*; the young ones eaten as a *whet* in North Britain; ludicrous anecdote concerning. Charming view of the Cheviot hills.

* This name, by mistake, has been spelt *Gerrard* instead of *Garrard*, through the whole of the *Tour*.

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ENTER SCOTLAND.

14. *Coldstream Bridge*. Indifferent appearance of the country, in consequence of the wars between the Borderers. Kelso race-ground. Vale of Tweed; descent to the bridge; inn; dine and fish the Tweed; dangerous for angling; fine appearance of the town, abbey, &c. Duke of Roxborough's house. Proceed to *Lauder*; inn indifferent; steepness of the road to Dalkeith; heavy shower of rain. Itinerant parson. Descent to Dalkeith, and its extensive prospect; Dalkeith, small town. Duke of Buccleugh. High road to Edinburgh; inconvenience of the carters. Lone Head, the seat of Baron Norton.

EDINBURGH.

18. Hear of there being great riots in this town, but find, on my arrival, every thing quiet. Provide stores for my journey. Go to see Mrs. Siddons perform; curious behaviour of the audience; appearance of Edinburgh. Pay a morning visit to Lady G. L. B. C. Superiority of the road here to any between Edinburgh and London. *Kirk of Shotts*; inn very bad. Proceed to Holly Town, through a very bleak and dreary country; Holly Town. The soil at the Kirk of Shotts, its naked and barren appearance. Beauty of the country from hence to Glasgow. Approach that city.

GLASGOW.

22. Day spent in viewing the town; admire the magnificence and regularity of the buildings; go in the evening to a ball and supper; my companions quite astonished at the style of the ladies dancing. Rise early, and walk round what is called the *Green*; a large piece of ground, not unlike a park. *Golf*, an amusement universal throughout Scotland. Visit the college. Berduce Loch; situation of this lake beautiful. *Rough Hill*; hospitable entertainment received there. Pay compliments to Mr. C. at Castle Milk; the view from this place on a fine day charming. Kelvin, find the bridge over the river broken down, and have a narrow escape from destruction. Examine the iron-works at Dunnotter. Bowling Craigh.

DUMBARTON.

30. Singular appearance of Loch Lomond; its romantic situation; spring a brood of twelve grouse; descend to Kelster. Island of Inchmerin; sail round to view the situation of the island; proceed up the lake to Luss. Rosedoc, the seat of Sir James Colquhoun. Troll Cumstradder Bay without success; troll it a second time, and kill a shabby jack. This lake deceitful in its appearance; beauty of it towards evening, and elegance of the views. Inchstevanoch, Cumstradder, &c. Coast round the former, and cross over to Luss. Comic digression. Beautiful

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effect of moonlight on the lake. Land at Luss, miscalled a town, consisting merely of four or five cabins; fine appearance of the shore; inn and accommodations very indifferent.

40. Commence fisher in earnest; preparations; catch parrs for baits, and take a large fish. Row to Sir James's Deer Island, catching some small fish in my way. Land, and stroll over the island. Land on a second island, where there are great plenty of water-fowl, of which the servant, *Matt*, takes several nests. Kill an old raven. Dine, and afterwards catch several trout. Row towards Sir James's Rabbit Island; take a perch with fly, and afterwards, with a perch rod, upwards of ninety.

42. Fish the fox-hounds in a small bay; troll with *dead snap*, without success. Proceed, and pass the straits of Loch Lomond; feel a fish strike, apparently of great magnitude, but find him not so big as expected, owing to his being hooked in the belly part. See a water-eagle, but unsuccessful in my attempts to kill it; scarcity of these birds. Land, and find a card of invitation from Sir James; inn improved on my return. Weigh the perch taken. Go to Inch-stevanoch; leave Mr. Garrard to draw, and land at Rosedoe; house and plantation described; immense size of the trees; hospitality of Sir James. Return home and meet two ladies, who prove to be the Duchess of G. and Lady Mary G. on their tour through the Highlands; resign my accommodations in the inn to her grace.

46. Fish for pike under Ben Lomond. Duchess of G. and Lady Mary G. proceed on their tour. Rise early; have excellent sport with a large trout, kill it and send it after the ladies. Cross the lake to fish for jack near Inversnaid; find the weather too hot, and land and view the place. Meet two officers belonging to the garrison, very singularly accoutred, who politely offer the use of a small boat, which I accept, but am unsuccessful. Accept of refreshment from the officers, and sail round Ben Lomond for the Point of Firkin; form of the mountain. Hear a firing, and meet two fox-hunters, who have earthed a wild cat, but affirm the attempt to destroy it will be impracticable. Description of these fox-hunters, their dress and equipage; leave them and cross over the deepest part of the lake; beauty of the surrounding views. Troll, and kill some trout, remarkably black. Search after the fox-hounds; find them all unbaited. Discharge our boatman, and ascend a difficult eminence, from which the view of the lake and its numerous islands is uncommonly fine. Weather gets stormy; perceive at sea a vessel in distress. Arrive at Tarbat and find a good inn.

51. The evening being still fine, engage a boat in order to troll with Mr. P. The boatman intoxicated, breaks my best rod; quit the boat, and return to our inn.

53. Prepare for fishing Loch Long, but proceed for Glen Falloch by the banks of Loch Lomond. Wonderful steepness of the road, and excellence of my horse; an instance of what is to be done with these animals with attention. Pursue the road from Tarbat. Arrive at Glen Falloch; inn very bad; proceed for Cree in La Roche, through a very wild country. Dine at Cree in La Roche at an indifferent inn, and kill a few trout in the river Dochart; castle Dochart and its surrounding plantations. Pursue our journey by a very bad road to Killin; its romantic situation;

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find the landlord of the inn a neighbour of mine, and well accommodated; consult him on our future proceedings.

HEAD OF LOCH TAY.

56. Engage a boatman, and make preparations for sailing down the lake. Examine the situation of Killin; disappointed in baits for trolling, and, owing to that and the warmth of the morning, have but indifferent success. Breeze increases; fish rise very fast; Mr. P. kills a good many, and myself some very large; put up our tackle, and proceed, admiring the views around us; after dinner, land at Kenmore.

58. KENMORE. Discharge the boatmen, and find their charges very exorbitant. Imposing disposition of the Highlanders. Beauty of Taymouth; repair to the fort, a most commanding situation, and dine in one of the bastions; wonderful fine view from this place of the surrounding scenery. The *Tees* breed, or *Yorkshire* cows, introduced on his estate by Lord Braedalbane; immense size of these cattle. Admire a large weeping birch. Description of Taymouth, and the plantations around it; hills resemble the grand Chatreuse in Dauphine. *Berceau* walk, very magnificent; great length and width of the walk on the banks of the Tay; character of that beautiful river and its fine bridge.

TAYMOUTH CASTLE.

62. House described; singular genealogical picture; library; hospitably treated by Mrs. C. the noble owner's mother, and drink the health of the Braedalbane family, under a discharge of cannon, which echo round the hills in a wonderful manner. A large beech tree. Breakfast early and proceed on our journey. Mr. Garrard visits and takes a sketch of the hermitage.

64. DUNKELD. Visit the Duke of Athol's; admire the beauty of the water-fall, but find the hermitage out of character. Cross over to Invar, and find some difficulty in getting accommodated at the inn. Morning, quit Invar, and cross by the ferry. Highlanders and their shelties; comic incident of one who attempts to swim over on horseback. Land at Fascally.

66. FASCALLY; romantic situation, inadequately described by Mr. Pennant's print. Beautiful road made at the expense of Lord Braedalbane. Quit the inn, and go to examine the ducal residence; description of it; account of its blockade by the rebels, and singular anecdote; furniture; examine the plantations, hermitage, and York Cascade. Mr. Pennant mistaken in his account of the culture of rhubarb here. Examine the Falls of Brewer, and find them far superior to the York Cascade. Water-falls, difficult subjects for the pencil. Proceed to

69. DALNACARDOCK; find good quarters, and determine to stay the evening, in order to fish a lake, abounding with trout and char. Rise early, and in a lake at some distance kill several fish, but the evening foreboding rain, return to the inn; bill of fare. Proceed in the morning for Raits;

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try to hire a person to carry the fish kettle, but find the peasants exorbitant in their demands, and obliged to decline it. Arrive at Dalwhinny, and engage a soldier for that purpose. Proper mode of keeping fish alive. Pass the Falls of Truem; afterwards arrive at Pitmain. The fish killed by the negligence of the soldier.

RAITS.

71. Take a turn before breakfast; kill two brace of ducks and a brace and a half of snipes, but hurt my leg. Receive a discouraging account of the *Ville de Paris*; her danger and providential preservation. Mode of transporting the cargo to Forres. Examine the pastures, and find them extremely boggy; and the house taken by no means equal to what expected. Contrast between an English horse and a Highland poney. Find great quantities of ducks and snipes, and kill several, but unsuccessful in tolling, the river not being in order. Try a famous net, but find it not answer. Met by several friends, and receive a present of a cast of hawks, and a tercel from Lochaber. Troll down the river, and hook a large salmon, but lose him. Rise early and proceed down the Spey, and in great danger from the boisterous weather. Joined by Messrs. M^cP—s; accept of an invitation to dine with them. Sunday; a Highland kirk; thin audience, owing to the spirit of emigration; its consequences. The bird sent me, a goss-hawk. Take out the pointers and a brace of whelps, and kill several snipes. Roebucks, their scarcity; jocular deception put on Mr. W. respecting them.

78. Receive a letter from Forres, and learn that the cutter and boats are detained from wrong directions given to the master of the sloop, and the ignorance of the carpenters employed in making sledges.

79. AVEMORE. General Orders, and returns of the cargo. Try the hawks, and kill six small trout; see vast quantities of wild ducks, but unable to get near them, owing to the rain and flood. LOCHS GUIACKS; visit these lakes; road very hilly and stony; find them the same I had before misnamed Lochs Sinclair. Kill twenty-seven fine fish, and see the skeleton of a very large trout. Great number of deer that formerly inhabited the forest of Guiacks; what these forests are. Return to Raits; kill three grey plovers; fly the hawks twice, and find one of the pointers good for nothing. Go to fish the river Dulnon; try the pointers and hawks in my way; kill a few small trout, but find my hopes disappointed in respect to the river. Great quantities of junipers on the banks of the Dulnon, and excellence of the surrounding pastures. Game here being very plentiful, fly the hawks, and meet with good success. Breakfast with two ladies of Avemore, to whom am introduced by letter from the D. of G. The ladies honour us with their company to see our boats, and mode of fishing with fox-hounds; the latter having excited much curiosity, but obliged to postpone the amusement from the unfavourable state of the weather.

83. LOCH ALVA. Lake abounds with immense pike; proceed to troll it, but for some time unsuccessful; take soon after a large pike. Bait the *Black Admiral* and keep on cruising,

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the ladies being on board. See a fish rise with incredible ferocity; with some difficulty take him, and find him nearly a yard long. Captain W. likewise kills three of a very good size; catch two fish afterwards, one of which weighs about fourteen and the other twenty pounds. Return, drink tea with the ladies, and pass a very pleasant evening.

85. Visit Loch Alva a second time; having got a great quantity of fine trout for bait, start the fox-hounds, and take a fine pike of above twenty pounds; find one of the fox-hounds I had lost well baited, and perceive a very large fish, which escapes.

MONSTROUS LARGE PIKE.

86. Order the boat to cruise about, and take a pike upwards of five feet four inches long.

87. Sunday; visit a Highland kirk. Further description of the above fish; find him nearly forty-eight pounds weight. Great voracity of pike; anecdote of those in the ponds at Thornville; one said to have been taken in Loch Spey which weighed one hundred and six pounds. Try the lake again several times for fish, but find none; probably, owing to the great quantity of food so large a fish must devour. Visit another lake of great depth, and name it *Walter's Lake*, supposing ourselves the first navigators. Kill a brace and a half of ducks and a snipe and return home on account of the rain. Lure the cast of gentle hawks. Capt. W. fishes with the seine, and meets with several trout. Dine at home with some visitors, and spend an agreeable evening.

Mr. G. and Capt. W. take the diversion of hawking and setting; net two brace of snipes, which took, when *sealed*, very eagerly. Send the boat forward to Loch Guinach, likely for pike, and ride there with some difficulty, on account of the hurt received in my leg. Troll for some hours, but only take two or three small pike; leave the lake, and return and pass the evening with a party at home.

90. Loch Alva; prepare for a grand regatta on the lake, and invite several families; but, on account of the unfavourable weather, postpone the amusement till the Monday following; day afterwards turns out fine; visit and fish the lake, but have no sport. Meet my friend, the Laird of M-Intosh, and receive an invitation to stay supper, which am obliged to decline. Order preparations to be made for an expedition to Glen Ennoch. Find the Spey unfordable, and go round by Ruthven ferry, giving the servants directions to meet us by another road. Vale of Fische, an extreme wild view; intense heat there; great difficulty and danger of ascending the mountain. Deposit our Champaigne, &c. in a large snow drift, and agree to dine there; kill an old moor cock and a ptarmigan which order to be well picked, and prepared for that purpose. Bad qualities of the grass on this mountain. Method of climbing it, and bringing up the horses.

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GLEN ENNOCH.

91. Sublime view of this glen and the lake; my companions descend to it while I remain and kill some ptarmigans as specimens for Mr. Garrard. Ludicrous anecdote. Dine. Try the temperature of the water, and find it at $43\frac{1}{2}$ Fahrenheit. Descend the mountain, and do not reach the bottom till nearly midnight. My horse very ill; humanity recommended towards animals. Arrive at a village, but can get no rational answers to my enquiries respecting the road. Follow the river Troomy and come to Ruthven, and afterwards cross the ferry; much swollen with the rains; proceed, and find the servants arrived at Raits.

Accompany Capt. Waller to visit several lakes in the neighbourhood previous to his departure, and order the *Ville de Paris* to be got ready early in the morning. Beauty of the road toward Indersch. Cross the Spey; at this place a moderate ford, and traversing an extensive bed of stones, hasten towards Loch Neiland, which am told abounds with very large pike, though difficult to be taken, on account of the lakes being full of trees. Servants come to us and launch the boat.

LOCH NEILAND.

96. Size and beauty of this piece of water; surrounds the ruins of an old castle, whose walls are immensely thick; charming variety of the views around it, and great size of the trees, sufficiently falsify the assertion of Churchill and other writers. Take Capt. W. on board, and hoist a signal to Mr. G. Examine the fox-hounds, and find all unbaited but one, at which is apparently a weighty fish; it escapes; kill a fine pike of seventeen pounds, with which have good sport. Quit this lake highly pleased. A fine ride recommended to ladies. Cross the Fische. Directions to travellers in passing the Spey. Beauty of Loch Inche by moonlight.

99. Examine a farm which I intend to purchase. Order the boats on a lake hitherto unexplored, and meet with some excellent sport. Persuade Capt. W. to stop another day, in order to visit Loch Guiacke, and order trimmers to be set for eels and lampreys; take my gun and kill a brace of snipes and a wild duck; kill three brace and a half of the same birds, and return home. After dinner troll down the river in the Gibraltar; catch several fish, and towards the evening some eels, one of which weighs near five pounds; superior strength of lampreys to eels; row up the river, and, after some play, take a good trout and return home.

102. Capt. W. takes leave; shoot down the Spey, and kill a beautiful bird, called a Sea Magpye, &c.; fish the river for trout, and meet with good sport; raise some *rattlers* and catch one; troll in the evening; day windy; get pike bait to fish on the lakes below the house, and take a few; fly the hawks and kill a brace and a half of wild ducks; one of the flights very excellent.

103. Go to church, and hear a well-delivered sermon by Mr. Anderson; character of a Highland congregation; invite three Highland lairds to dine with me. Kingcraig; breakfast, and with.

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two gentlemen attempt to fish Loch Alva, but disappointed for want of bait. Dine at Indereschy; beauties of this spot; fly the hawks; visit Capt. M's. father, and pass the evening.

104. Loch and Glen Ennoch; again visit this lake; further account of the pernicious nature of the grass; fabulous stories concerning it; see several broods of ptarmigants, but obliged to return to Indereschy on account of the heavy rains. Raits; its fine situation. Fonness; its cascade; give directions for the necessary apparatus to proceed to Avemore, intending to encamp near Loch Baugh. Fine ride between Raits and Avemore, and beauty of the views. Forest of Glenmore and Rothemuroos an asylum for stags and roebucks; goss-hawks; their rarity; description of. Come to Avemore; inn very dirty and indifferent, but landlord civil; informs me immense pike are caught in Loch Baugh; proceed towards that place, and have several noble flights on my way.

LOCH BAUGH.

108. Description of; disappointed in fishing, and fly the hawks; servant, who was to meet me with the waggon, misses his way; ride after him along a very beautiful road, and at length overtook him, and find he has been directed wrong; arrive at a fine little valley; dine, and afterwards fish; bait the fox-hounds, and return and sup in camp, but find some difficulty in procuring a bed, on account of the neglect of the servants.

111. Troll with live bait; see *Conqueror* with a very large fish at him; take two very fine fish, and afterwards a third, weighing twelve pounds; try, in my way home, for black cocks, but unsuccessful. Lawson rouses a fine stag; lament I have not my rifle. Dine; return again to Loch Baugh, and afterwards kill several fish, and sup in camp, leaving the fox-hounds well baited. Dine with a party of ladies and gentlemen, and give orders for the removal of the encampment.

112. Cross the Spey, and visit Mr. P. Proceed for the Ness of Craigow, a wild, stupendous rock; from which a species of hawk derives its name; fine echo; its wonderful effect in a concert. Launch the *Ville de Paris* in order to fish Loch Uric; find it very stormy and dangerous, and run her on shore. Mr. P. trolls and takes several good trout; row towards the Spey, and land a very fine salmon. Arrive at Dalhenly, and dispel Mr. G's. apprehensions for us; he has likewise had good sport.

113. Stupendous rock of Craigow; fine echo; wonderful effect. Launch the *Ville de Paris*. Fish the Spey. Proceed for Lake Crunichan and lose the Duchess. Fine view of Loch Laggan. Recover the falcon. *Ville de Paris* overset, and stores greatly damaged. Orders for the day's sport. Extreme cold spring. Proceed for Aberarder. Romantic road. Lose one of the fox-hounds; Lawson attempts to take it by swimming his horse, and narrowly escapes drowning.

115. Lake Crunichan; prepare for an expedition on this lake, and while the boats are launching take a turn with the pointers and hawks, but lose the Duchess; troll, meet with very poor success; fly the falcon. Quit this lake, and set off for Aberarder, through a boggy and stony ground; find and kill some snipes on my way. Beautiful appearance of Loch Laggan.

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ABERARDER.

116. Hire four Highlanders to bring our provisions, &c. from the boat, and arrive by a very intricate road at a farm-house, where we are very comfortably accommodated. Recover the falcon. An accident befalls the boat-men; manner and consequences of it. Blue rabbits; a peculiar species of hare described. Examine the articles which had been damaged in consequence of the boat's oversetting, and find most of the things destroyed; but the boat is raised and safely drawn on shore.

119. Propose to ascend the high mountains near Aberarder, in order to kill some specimens of game for Mr. G's pencil, and gather botanical plants. Dr. M.P. fishes for dinner. Proceed, but only see one brood of white game, and in consequence fly the hawks; see four large stags; quantities of snow on Ben Nevis; kill a brace and a half of golden plover, of which see several flocks. Dine near a spring, said to be the coldest in the kingdom; try it, and find the thermometer at $45\frac{1}{2}$ Fahrenheit. Examine several *corrys*, and see plenty of ptarmigants. Difficulty of descending the mountains to all except natives. Abundance of trout in the lake. Return homeward by a very bad road, and do not arrive there till dark.

121. Pack up the fox-hounds; troll and kill four pike; observe they differ from those found in other places. Strike the encampment, and proceed by the edge of the lake; find one of the fox-hounds with a large fish at him; hazardous adventure of Mr. Lawson to take it; is very near losing his life, but providentially saved through the exertions of myself and a Highlander. Go to Avemore, and learn that my best fishing-rod is stolen by a person intrusted to carry it; and, though the gentlemen of the neighbourhood interest themselves, do not recover it.

125. General orders for pitching the camp, &c. Requisites for the chace amusingly described by Jacques du Fouilloux. Poetical description of the black cock. Get into a *bothée*; adventure there; Cpts. B. and F. arrive with the baggage horses, and pitch the tents; Highland hodge-podge.

DULNON CAMP.

129. Have great success in fishing and shooting, and dedicate the next day to public hawking; got some uncommon good flights, and afford great satisfaction to the spectators of this amusement; method of hawks bathing themselves. Description of the ground occupied by our encampment. Poetical apostrophe to the river Dulnon. Vast quantities of game on the moors. *Croke franc*, etymology of.

132. View the pillar at Coriarder; troll and have good sport; try a famous large net; flush a brood of black cocks, and slightly wounded one, which I hope to domesticate. Adventure with a

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lamb. Dr. M-P. takes two hundred and seventeen trout; kill a *fly-catcher*, or night-hawk, for Mr. Garrard; description of it.

134. Ascend the mountains with a cast of slight hawks; reach the top, and find numbers of ptarmigans, snow-flakes, and snipes; extreme cold; fly the falcon, and afterwards the tercel; lose the latter; wing a young ptarmigan to recover it, and am successful; descend; allow the servants to angle and return homewards, sporting on the way. Find two Highland gentlemen waiting me, with whom I pass the evening. Singular instance of abstinence in a military officer serving in America.

137. Lose the goss falcon. Proceed to Dalhenly. Mr. G. takes the road for Raits. Fish some pools in the Spey with a net; kill two fine salmon, &c. but driven in by the day being squally. Launch the *Ville de Paris* and fall down the river; meet Leslie the fox-hunter and take him on board. The boat overset by a concealed rock, but the accident proves of no consequence; come to the brook where our carriage had been left, find it much enraged, and in consequence wade through, and get extremely wet. Arrive at Raits, and find a roebuck has been sent me as a present; dine, and am visited by a Highland stranger.

140. Learn that Mr. D.'s horse and pointer are arrived at Pitmain, and feel considerable pleasure at the prospect of enjoying his company. Order the encampment to be formed. Mr. D. much pleased with our situation. Direct the fish magazine to be examined for fish, in order to entertain him. Comforts to be obtained in the Highlands not duly valued by the natives. Method recommended to preserve fish. Consequences of sending presents. Agreeable supply of provision brought by Mr. D.

142. Rise early and see the whole equipage put in motion for our departure. Anecdote. Discontented temper of the Highlanders. Order of our march. Agree to try the net in the river, and am successful in taking several fish to supply the magazine. Plan to be followed in our sporting; fly the hawk and tercel, and have very good sport. Anecdote of hawking near Thornville. Fine view of our encampment; nature of it described; weather very stormy and unfavourable for shooting, but notwithstanding kill six brace; find the hawks of no use. Mr. D.'s marquee blown down. Lure the hawks. Favoured with a visit by Messrs. F. and M. of Barochan Castle, and astonish them with my day's sport.

146. Proceed to fresh ground, but am disappointed in game; try the hawks, and have several excellent flights; dogs start a wild cat, or martin; description of it. Determine to fish in Lawson's Gulph, in the mean time uncouple the dogs, who flush a brood, of which the tercel kills a brace. Return homewards. Rise early. Hawk towards Raits, day proving very favourable; fly the falcon, which kills a brace of birds. Recover the Duchess; have some success afterwards, but am at length obliged to return home, owing to a sudden storm.

149. Receive a packet of letters, and learn it is impossible for Mr. S. to join me as agreed on. Mr. D. and self shoot separately; kill an old cock at one hundred and three yards distance; have but indifferent success, owing to the birds being exceeding wild; the falcon does considerable

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execution. Botanical remark applied to game. Return to Raits and dine with a comfortable party. Morning very cold; great quantity of snow on the mountains; fly the falcon; light a fire and cook our dinner near a stream; find my famous battle-powder damaged; send for No. 2. and in consequence meet with great success; night comes on very stormy, and much endangers the encampment, but fortunately no accident happens.

152. Morning calm; learn that there have been great storms in several parts of the island. Dry my powder, and have very excellent sport. See an eagle. Send a supply of provisions to the camp. Receive a present of a live blue leveret. Sup on the haunch of a roebuck, and find it very delicious food. Morning; amuse ourselves with luring the goss hawk. Excellent effects of sportmen drying their own powder, and consequences of leaving that duty to be performed by servants. Find plenty of game after dinner, but shoot indifferently, owing to the rough ground and high wind. Am awakened by the breaking of the tent pole, owing to the great fall of rain; extricate myself; pass the evening without further accident.

154. Rise early, and try the goss-hawk at a wounded bird, which takes to the *soor*, and we lose her; shoot with indifferent success. Mr. D. prepares to return to Glasgow, as likewise Captain F. and Mr. M. Visit my friend Mr. P. who is much recovered, and accompanies me to Raits. Description of Fonness. Hardship of Highland tennants.

156. Falls of Truem described. Great quantity of salmon and trout in the Lyns; see a man *darting* at the former, who sends after us a pretty small fish for dinner. Dine with Captain M.P. and Miss A. M.P. Return in the evening to Raits. Breakfast, and try to detain Mr. D. but am unsuccessful. Proceed for Avemore; beauty of the road. Difference of taste in viewing the same scenes, and why. Loch Inch, a fine expanse of water; elegance of its islands. Pass Loch Alva, famous for pike. Rich scenery on the banks of the Spey. Reach Avemore, and troll and kill some pike. Dine and examine Loch Petulichge. Strange accounts of a prodigious pike, said to inhabit the Spey; make preparations for taking it. Patience recommended to anglers. Try several baits, and at length take him, and find him a most noble fish.

FALLS OF THORNTON, why so called.

162. Caution to sportsmen in keeping their dogs. Go to see an elegant waterfall above the encampment; meet the Laird of Sheene, and Captain M.P. of Indereschy, who return and dine with me in camp; bill of fare; day indifferent. Order the hawks to be *lifted* on the edge of Croke Frank, and have very fine flights. Account of an eyrie of eagles. Singular anecdote of a Highlander's family, partly maintained by means of a young eaglet. Accident which befel a falconer who attempted to take a nest. Eagles and hawks always keep the same eyries. Fine view of the Vales of Badenoch and Spey; poetical description of them. Difference between English and Scotch landscapes. Order the encampment to be broke up. Receive a polite invitation from Colonel M.P. the clan requesting me to dine with them on account of a public rejoicing. Act for restoring

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forfeited estates in Scotland; arguments for and against; Lord Lovat; gallant conduct of General Frazer, his son; profits of the forfeited estates, how applied. Utopian scheme.

HIGHLAND FESTIVAL.

171. Visit Colonel M'P. and the clan, agreeable to my promise; the company described; manner of the entertainment; dancing; Highland pipers; singularly grand illumination.

Morning boisterous. Go to Avemore. Try a moor for black game, but without success. Hasten to Lawson's Gulph; have several good flights at ducks in our way. Bait the fox-hounds; troll and take a fine fish; return and sup at King Craig, and pass the evening at whist.

175. Day very pleasant. Make an appointment with Mr. S. the D. of G—'s head forester. Find a covey of partridges, and kill a brace. Mr. S. sees a roebuck, which unfortunately misses me. Eley berries, a cooling, delicious fruit. Proceed to the lake and troll for pike, but have not a single rise. Return to Avemore; shoot, and hit in my way, a mark, at the distance of eighty yards. Meet at the inn a Yorkshire lady, with whom I am acquainted. Morning; ascend a high mountain, in order to get sight of a roebuck, but am disappointed. Sagacity of my mare. Scotch salutation. Unkennel a fox. Lawson sees three roebucks. Mr. G—'s house and estates, described. Troll Loch Alva, and proceed for Grantown.

CASTLE GRANT.

180. Character of Sir L. G. Increased luxury of the country. Fine plantations. Inn at Grantown, good and reasonable. Proceed for Forbes, road execrable. Grantown, the residence of several celebrated characters. Scene of a famous battle. Rapidity of the river Findhorn. View of the country, similar to the plains of Germany. Brodie, a convenient mansion; its estates, immemorially in possession of the family of that name. Tarnaway Castle; its magnificent hall; portraits. Anecdote of the Earl of Murray. Approach to Forbes. Highland and Lowland dress. Antique column, called *Sueno's Stone*.

FORRES.

184. A fair. Sobriety of the people. Falcon, a very good inn. Send the carriage towards Elgin, and view the town. Price and quality of land. Hedges; town-hall; castle. Fine view. Singular inundation.

185. Forres moor. Macbeth and the witches.

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ELGIN.

187. Description of the town; its manufactures, &c. Cathedral, destroyed by the régent Murray; its remains; elegance of the western door and choir; curious tomb stones; history of the church; its present state particularly described; chapter house; bishop's palace, college, &c. Lord Badenoch, the wolf of Murray; burns the town of Forres; pénance on account of it. Beautiful views. Frith of Murray. Ill management of the farmers in its neighbourhood.

191. Abbey of Pluscardin; its site renowned for fine fruit trees; why these particularly flourished in the vicinity of religious houses. Approach to Gordon Castle. Burgh of Moray, a Danish station; its remains still perfect; curiosities discovered there. Ford the Spey; destruction made by this river on the Duke of Gordon's estate, compensated by its fishery. Seal or selk fishing, manner of; find a friend engaged in this singular species of sporting; great size of the seals killed on this coast.

GORDON CASTLE.

194. Situation and appearance of the ducal mansion; by whom founded, and how originally called; its ancient splendour; fine walks and beautiful plantations; pictures; portraits; remarkable one of Lord L. Gordon, called the Plague of the People of Murray. Am hospitably entertained. Make a party to shoot on the moors. Admire the various improvements, &c. See a true Highland greyhound, curious dog mentioned by Mr. Pennant.

197. Prepare to return to Raits, but am politely detained. Go to church; character of the congregation, their dress, &c. plainness of the females. Duke of G. arrives, and find him a finished gentleman. Lord Monboddie, his character. Regularity of the G. family; particular account of the house park, &c.

199. Quit Castle G. and proceed for Grantown. Stop at Ballendalloch, and find a most wretched inn. Seat of General Grant. Females fording the Spey. Fish, and catch some fine trout, &c. See numbers of ptarmigans extremely wild; poetical description of the mountains they inhabit. Bring the Gibraltar by a very difficult road. Forest of Rothemurcos; great swell of the river. Dr. M^r.P. meets with an accident, and we are in some danger with the boat, but at last arrive safe at Avemore. Contrast between an English and Scotch female. Messrs. P. and G. pass the evening in a bothé. Am invited to see Loch Laggan, and proceed thither with the dogs, and meet with some success in shooting by the way.

201. Pass a mill rise. Salmon blazing or poaching. Arrive at Grantown. Roebuck shooting. Entertain some strangers. Domestic nature of moor game in severe weather. Lake Superior; Ville de Paris launched there. Gibraltar carried with great difficulty over the mountains. Arrive at Mr. C—'s. Ferry much swollen with the rains. Forest of Rothemurcos. Fine view of Loch Ennoch, Loch Down, &c.

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LOCH LAGGAN,

214. Poetical description of; size and character of the lake. Different sorts of trout. *Duermain*, account of, and how caught. Mr. P. quits me on his return home, and Mr. G. and self proceed for Moy. Dulnon Forest, poetical description of. See some curious pycbald poneys, and purchase one. Slough Muick, why so called; wild as Glen Ammon. Fine cataract. Lyn of Muick. Loch Moy.

MOY.

217. Mansion of Mr. ———, a convenient house; commands several beautiful views. Find plenty of black game; kill five. Account of Kennedy and his gang. Shoot a roebuck; description of. Am accompanied on my way to Inverness by the Rev. Mr. G.

INVERNESS.

220. The town; description of it; its commerce; salmon and herring fishery; linen manufacture. Purity with which the natives speak English, and why. History of the town; frequently plundered. Remains of Cromwell's fort. Fort George, the scene of Duncan's murder by Macbeth; singular officer here, and in other parts of Scotland, called the Dean of Guild. Hospital. Character of the people of Inverness. Excellent inn built by subscription.

223. Proceed on my journey. Loch Ness; bad road from Inverness thither. Grain; black cattle; rural economy, &c. Stop at an inn, called the General's Hut, and find but indifferent fare.

224. Fall of Fiers; character of it; hazardous adventure there; unfortunate accident. Highland and Irish funerals. Directions for viewing this cascade to the best advantage. Pass by Knocky, a small house belonging to Mr. F. and proceed towards Fort Augustus. Meet a Highlander, and make enquiries, but find he can only speak Erse.

FORT AUGUSTUS.

228. Meet the Duke and Duchess of G. Politely received by the governor. Description of Fort Augustus. Visit *Kannihian*, or the Maiden's Leap; ridiculous story concerning. Superstitions of the Highlanders.

229. Loch Oich; its form and dimensions. Glen Gary, a pretty modern seat; estate around it; black lead discovered there. Mansion of the Lochiels. High bridge over the Brauder. Visit the parallel lines or roads. Return to Keppoch. Romantic glens, &c.

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FORT WILLIAM.

231. By whom built, its situation, form, dimensions, and present state. Climate of the neighbourhood, and its natural phenomena. Inverlochy Castle, a royal residence; fishery here; its annual profits. Fine views, and general face of the country. Mr. Campbells of Airds; his hospitality. Loch Neil, Bay of Mull, Bricaldane Castle, Ferry, Cowthorpe oak, &c.

233. Dunstaffnage Castle; how situated; its great antiquity; modern house within its walls, built by Mr. Campbell. Celebrated coronation stone, said to be long preserved here. Inauguration sculpture, mentioned by Mr. Pennant. History and description of this castle. Whimsical display of hospitality. Singular effect of the tides. Mode of crossing the ferry. Loch Etive. Mansion of Mr. Knox. Glen Brander; river, its rapidity. Salmon fishery. Iron works. Place for making charcoal. Priory of Ardochattan; a parliament said to be held here by Robert Bruce. Remains of large forests. Banks of the Brander. Loch Awe, a distant view of. Mountains of Croughen. Beautiful effect of moonlight.

DALMALLY.

238. Go to a Highland ball. Loch Awe; its great length; corn land on its borders. Kilchurn Castle, the ancient strong hold of the Braedalbane family, an elegant piece of ruins; public spirit of the present earl. Kill some black cocks. Hayfield, the seat of Mr. M'Dougal. Account of Dalmally. Minister's house and income. Price of labour. Ben Chruachan; its lead mine; literary turn of the mine. Face of the country from hence to Inverary. Loch Fine, a large and beautiful lake; its great quantity of sea weed used for manure. Culture of potatoes. Great herring fishery; method of taking the herrings; how disposed of; and the annual revenue they bring, &c. *Turnips or mackerel sture*, account of.

INVERARY CASTLE.

244. Its general appearance. Find the house full of company; introduced to Lord Stonefield, who favours me with an account of the phenomenon felt on Loch Awe. Pleasant situation of the castle; its form, furniture, &c. described; plantations, gardens originally founded by Sir Colin Campbell; assaulted by the Marquis of Montrose in 1644, and again by the rebels in 1715. Dunaquaick, an immense high hill; great size of the trees with which it is planted; fine view from its summit. Loch Dow, a singular lake in the park. Dairy, a neat building; how the castle might be improved. Portraits of the Marquis and Earl of Argyle, and biographical anecdotes concerning them. Town of Inverary. Shoot on the moors with Lord Lorn; have no success, but at length kill three brace of water-fowl, called *muratts*.

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PREPARE FOR MY RETURN TO THORNVILLE.

252. Glen Crow, a wild rocky scene; large herds of oxen and sheep. Loeh Long. Seat of the Laird of M'Farlane. Church, &c. Tarbat. Magnificence of Loch Lomond agitated by a storm; its three singular curiosities; description of this beautiful lake. Powings, a rare fish. Visit Sir James C. and proceed by a beautiful road to

255. Belle Retiro. Fine view from Mr. R's. house. Lord Glencairns. Dr. Smollet's monument. Distant view of Dumbarton. Frith of Clyde. Blantyre House. Finlaster.

DUMBARTON CASTLE.

256. Stupendous height, and singular form of the rock on which it is built. Roman Pharos. Present state of the castle; fabulous accounts of its antiquity; origin of its name, &c. Meet Capt. F. Shoot towards Glasgow. Castle Milk. Hamilton Palace; plantations around it. Shooting match.

BOTHWELL CASTLE.

259. Situation; antiquity of; present state of the ruins. Castle of Blantyre, formerly a monastery. Subterraneous communication below the bed of the Clyde.

HAMILTON HOUSE.

260. Shoot with the duke, and have good sport. Arran, an island, on his grace's estate, celebrated for its great quantities of game. See the duke's stud. Fine course in the park. *Chatel Herault*, a whimsical building, commands several fine views. Go again out with the duke to shoot, and kill some hares and a partridge. Improper liberties allowed to gamekeepers in Scotland. Thriving state of different species of fruits on the duke's grounds. Climate inimical to the breeding of pheasants. Set out for Cora Lyn; numbers of salmon here. Brocks, a species of badger. Proceed by Lanerk for Edinburgh; meet a gang of smugglers.

EDINBURGH.

265. Am invited to the Highland Society, to witness the merits of the different candidates for the bagpipe. Present state of music. Ludicrous anecdote of a bear and his leader. Set forward for Dalkeith. Pass the mansion of the Duke of Buccleugh. Decrease in the value of grass lands. Road to Kelso; bleak appearance of the country; fine approach to the town. Melrose Abbey, an

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elegant ruin; when, and by whom founded; its present remains. Curious custom of the gentlemen who inhabit the banks of the Tweed.

KELSO.

271. The races, description of; company. Visit the seat of the Duke of Roxburgh. Race ball; regulations wanted in respect to the dancing. Historical events connected with the town of Kelso; the abbey; privileges of the abbot, &c. Take the road for Jedburgh with Col. R. Pass the seats of the Marquis of Lothian and Sir J. Scott. Ancient and present population of the Borders.

LANGHOLM.

277. Meet Capt. S. description of the town. Cross the Esk, remarkable for salmon. Charming situation of Sir J. G's. house. Salmon hunting described.

CARLISLE.

278. Walls; castle; cathedral, its curious legendary paintings; singular monumental effigy of bishop Robinson. Wigton, a small wretched town; unpleasant appearance of the country. Sir Gilbert Lawton, Mrs. Speddings, &c. Proceed for Keswick. Adventure with a country girl.

KESWICK.

281. Only remarkable on account of its lake. Appearance of the buildings; its manufactures. Cabinet of natural curiosities at Mr. C's. Derwentwater; derivation of its name; beautiful islands on it. Black lead mine at Vicar's Isle; Dr. Campbell's account of it. Proceed for Rydal Hall, seat of Sir Michael Le Fleming. Pass Leathe's Water, Grassmere, &c. Unfavourable nature of the soil. Rydal Water. Hall, its antiquity. Picturesque appearance of Sir Michael and a party, drawing a pool. Hill road to Ponsonby; pass Rider Lake, the property of Sir M. F. extreme badness of the road. Arrive at Eisdale, a wretched inn. Ponsonby House; fine view from, of Calder Abbey. Curious salmon. Visit Calder Abbey, Adam's Crag, &c.

291. Mulcaster House, a building in the Gothic style; fine views from. Pass Dudden Sands, Broughton Hall, &c. Coniston Lake. Superiority of Highland views. Ambleside, a Roman station; remains of its camp. Windermere. Different lakes compared. Proceed for Kendal. Ings church; curious anecdote concerning.

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KENDAL.

297. Sizergh Hall, a very ancient seat. Town of Kendal described; the church; manufactures; immense beech tree. Kirby Lonsdale. Number and wretchedness of the inns in Cumberland. Giggleswick Scar. Singular well, excellently described by Mr. Gray.

300. Marshfield; famous trotting mare. Wonderful journeys performed by a peasant, named Giles Hoyle. Environs of Marshfield. Malmarn, an excellent sporting seat. Gordale Scar, an immense rock; its singularly romantic appearance described; Mr. Gray's sensations on viewing it.

304. Maum Cove, a curious cavern; its cataract inferior to the Fall of Fiers. Castle Bar, a rock so called, from resembling a castle. Visit the falconers' club. Settle, a small town; excellence, &c. of the road from thence to Gargrave. Gisburne park. Gargrave, its fine views. Skipton, romantically situated; its castle, the property of Earl Thanet, well preserved.

306. Knaresborough; celebrated dropping well there. Brimham rocks, resemble a vast pile of ruins. Rocking stones, remains of Druidical superstition. Singular perforated rock, called the Cannon. Account of Colonel William Thornton, and elegant present made him by the town of Knaresborough.

308. Concluding remarks.

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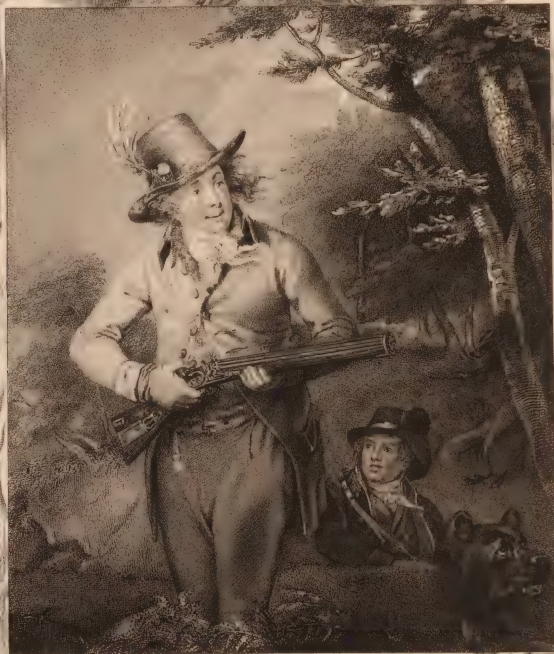
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ERRATA.

In the course of the following sheets, a few mistakes have unavoidably occurred in respect to dates, which, with the following errata, the reader is requested to correct.

<i>In Note.</i>	Page	21,	line	20,	for	Mr. P.	—	read	Mr. Garrard.
	38,	—	6,	—	hare,	—	—	—	hawk.
	64,	—	2 ^d ,	—	Argyle Hermitage,	—	—	—	the Athol.
	73,	—	29,	—	botos,	—	—	—	boots.
	80,	—	25,	—	20th July,	—	—	—	24th.
	160,	—	19,	—	book,	—	—	—	hook.
	193,	—	23,	—	think very,	—	—	—	think it very.
	224,	—	28,	—	Balls of Fiers,	—	—	—	Falls of Fiers.





Lieut. Col. Thornton

OF THORNVILLE ROYAL.

ROBERT'S SHOOTING IN THE FOREST OF GLENMORE,
with the only 12. Bore'd. Rifle ever made.

1796

SPORTING TOUR,

&c.

MET my friends, Messrs. P. and S. in London, about the beginning of spring, both of whom I found quite recovered, and, having given them an account of my last summer's sport, and talked over my disappointment at the loss of their company, &c. acquainted them with my intention of again traversing the mountainous regions of the north. Mr. S. lamented that his affairs did not permit him to commence so agreeable a journey with me, but promised to embrace the first opportunity of joining me. Mr. P. not being particularly engaged, heard my resolution with pleasure, and we soon adjusted the necessary preliminaries for our departure together.

Previous to this meeting, I had communicated my ideas respecting the plan I meant to adopt to the ingenious Mr. Gilpin, in whose taste as an artist, and good sense as a man, I could confide; and, particularly lamenting the want of a proper person with me last year, to do justice to the views I had been so enchanted with, he promised to exert himself to find some young man, of good family, whose abilities were equal to the task. Many offers, rather sooner than my determination was fixed, were made; but, for the following reasons, I chose Mr. Gerrard, a pupil of Mr. Gilpin's. The scenes I wished to have painted were to illustrate not only the views, as mere views, but as scenes adapted to sport, and his forte in animals was

very manifest: his age, constitution, and acknowledged rising genius would admit of no comparison: added to which, he was an excellent walker.

Matters thus far arranged, it took nearly three weeks to get every thing completed: I had bespoken a very curious boat during the winter, having felt the want of such an accommodation in my former journey, and I was anxious to see it put safely on board a York vessel previous to my quitting town: this, together with a portable kitchen, and a variety of other useful articles, being, however, at length procured, we left London in high spirits, and, on reaching Thornville, which we did by the latter end of May, found every thing safely arrived, except the boat and the kitchen. The former, I received advice, was delivered at Hull, but of the latter, after waiting anxiously for some time, Mr. Merlin disappointed me: and now, having hired a cutter, I embarked all my stores, servants, guns, dogs, nets, oatmeal, beans, &c. together with the two boats, (for I had purchased a second, in order that Mr. P's plans and mine might not interfere; a mode which, in like cases, I would recommend every sportsman to adopt implicitly,) and the whole being ready for sea, only awaited a favourable breeze, which soon after sprung up.

Previous to my engaging Mr. Garrard, I had entertained an idea of making a party in the voyage myself, but as the opportunity of illustrating, by that gentleman's pencil, the scenes that so particularly interested me in my first excursion would, by that means, have been lost, I reluctantly gave it up. We went, however, on board our vessel, which we christened *The Falcon*. The largest boat, which was made for me in London, I named the *Ville de Paris*, as a small honorary tribute to the brave Lord Rodney, whose singular good fortune, in taking the commanders in chief of two squadrons of France and Spain, in one war, is hardly to be paralleled in the annals of naval transactions. The other boat, destined for Mr. P's use, was called, for similar reasons, the *Gibraltar*, and, it being the fourth of June, we ordered the crew an additional quantity of flip, upon the occasion, to drink the health of our gracious sovereign, and then, trusting to the good fortune which attends every thing done on this auspicious day, we were set on shore,

the sails were spread, the crew gave us a salute, and, with colours flying, the vessel fell down the Ouse for Hull. At this place she was to take in biscuits, porter, &c. as well as ale and small beer, (the latter being a necessary I had found great want of,) and then set sail for Forres, the nearest port to *Raits*, at least the most convenient for procuring carriages to convey the above stores, now increased to a considerable bulk.

It will be naturally supposed, that, from the quantity of articles on board, there was very little room in the cabin of our small vessel; yet, such was the enthusiasm expressed by a female, a housekeeper of mine, for the expedition, that I found it impossible to resist her solicitations to go on board, and it is but justice to acknowledge that, in spirit, she outvied even the men. The crew consisted, besides this addition, of the captain, or master, and two mariners, the falconer, waggoner, groom, and boy.

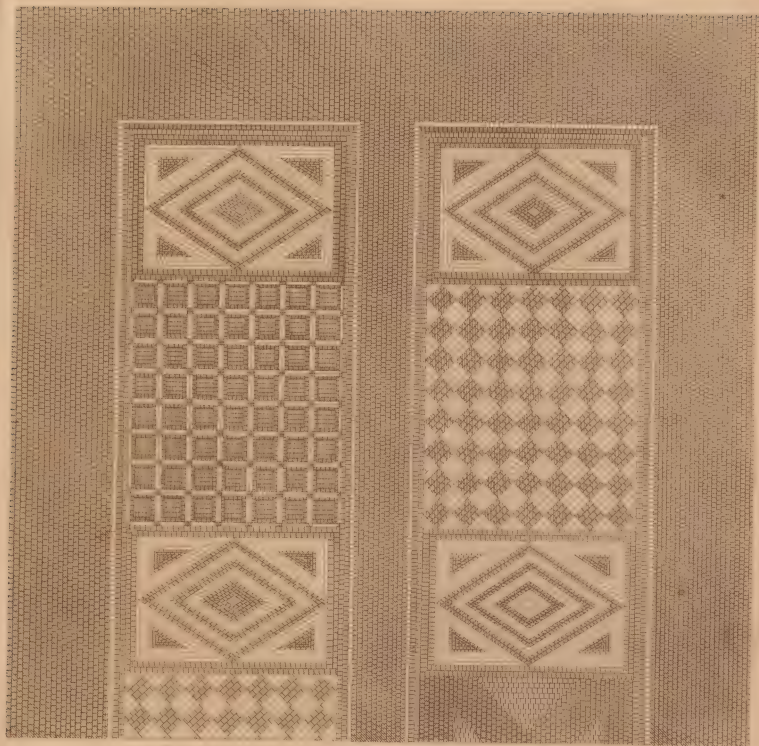
The wind continued very favourable the whole of the following day, and made us entertain the most sanguine hopes of the speedy arrival of the Falcon, about which we could not but be very anxious, as she contained every thing that we relied on for the success of our summer's sport. The master had concluded, allowing for change of wind, &c. that he should make the voyage in ten days, but in this it will appear, hereafter, that he reckoned, as the French express it, *sans son hôte*. We now, however, left him to make the best he could of his voyage, and the lord mayor of York having sent a very genteel invitation, to me and my friends, to dine with him, we could not deny ourselves the pleasure of waiting on him, and of heartily joining in commemorating the birth-day of his majesty.

Every thing was now put into motion, and all being ready for our departure, we quitted Thornville, the day delightful. Pursued our way through a most beautiful and romantic country, the scene bounded by picturesque hills, finely clothed with woods, and the verdure charming, and having passed through several places of lesser note, without any material accident intervening, at length arrived by the old Roman road at *Aldbrough*.

This ancient town, which, at present, has the appearance of little more than a neat pretty village, is celebrated in history as having been a large

populous city in the time of the Romans, the walls and fortifications of which are now converted into arable land, and were long since traced by Leland, Camden, and other famous antiquaries. The great number of curious remains of Roman works of art, consisting of statues, coins, &c. dug up, and discovered, from time to time, in this place, most of which have passed into different hands, either as private property, or to enrich Museums, has occasioned Aldborough to be visited by every curious traveller to the north. Among these relicts of ancient times, what has principally attracted the notice of strangers, is the various fragments of Roman pavements, in mosaic work, which are to be seen here. Of many of these, drawings have been made and engravings published, but the most perfect one hitherto discovered, and still to be seen, is in the house of one Dorothy Ellers, and was dug up about the year 1750, when, intending to make a cellar on the spot, on removing the earth for that purpose, Mrs. Ellers first noticed it, and has ever since taken care to preserve it in the best manner. As this specimen highly merits the notice of every traveller, and is superior to those so often described, Mr. Garrard took a drawing of it, which I understand is the first that has been made. The figures of this pavement, which occupies the whole floor of a small parlour, are more beautiful and variegated, and consist of a greater variety of colours than any I remember to have seen. The stones of which it is composed are, in general, about an inch square, but, in some of the interior divisions, there are many not larger than common dice. Having, likewise, obtained leave to take a drawing of the very perfect gold coin of the Emperor Trajan, in the possession of the same person, we went forward to Boroughbridge, which, from Aldborough, is a pleasant walk of about half a mile. I would recommend to travellers, as the easiest method of viewing the Roman pavement, &c. to leave their horses or carriages at Boroughbridge, and investigate these curiosities while their dinner or other repast is getting ready.

At Boroughbridge we stopped and took a little refreshment with my very worthy and intimate friend Capt. W. who accompanied us to take a view of those great curiosities, the three pyramids, in the adjacent fields, vulgarly



THE ROMAN PAVEMENT AT ALBOROUGH NEAR THORNVILLE ROYAL

Scale of feet and inches



called, *The Devil's Arrows*, which have puzzled all our celebrated antiquaries. Some asserting that they are solid stones, and placed as trophies of victories obtained by the Roman generals; others considering them as druidical remains, formed of some particular composition unknown to us.

While Mr. Garrard was engaged in taking his sketch, I had an opportunity of examining these curiosities minutely, and am decidedly of opinion that they are a *composition*. My reasons for this are, that none of the stone quarries in the neighbourhood produce any stones of the colour of those that compose the pyramids, which are internally red, and seem to be partly composed of some pulverized materials resembling brick dust, which corresponds, in a great degree, with the account given by Pliny, of cisterns, and other vessels at Rome, artificially compounded of sand, vitriol, quick-lime, and some unctuous cement, which rendered them so hard and durable, that they had all the appearance of solid stones. These singular monuments are situated at a considerable distance from each other, in three separate fields, and not quite in a direct line, as most authors have described them. They are a little out of the perpendicular, inclining to the south-east, which is evidently owing to a small declivity in the ground on that side. The dimensions of the pillars vary; the most lofty is about twenty-five feet from its base; and the largest, which is not so high, measures, in the girth, eighty-four feet. Their shape is quadrangular and pyramidal, but, at the top, very irregular, as if pieces had been broken out; and, having deep fissures or grooves, supposed by some to be the effect of their long exposure to storms of wind, hail, and heavy rains; and, by others, to have been made at first to carry off the wet.

Took leave of this interesting spot, and made what haste we could towards Mr. L's, at Northallerton. Mr. P. who preferred riding on horseback to the gig, ~~had~~ gone on before to apprise him of our intention.

Bedale, a small, bad town, through which we now passed, is only remarkable for a tolerably spacious street and very slippery pavements. Adjoining to it stands Hall House, the property of Mr. Pierce, a good family mansion, with a hall sufficiently roomy to form commodious barracks for

soldiers, for which purpose it wants nothing but the addition of a second fire-place.

Continued our route to *Speningthorne*; road very indifferent. The situation of this place is beautiful and romantic, the scene bounded by picturesque hills, finely clothed with wood, the verdure charming, and the prospect much heightened by the fair town of *Middleham*.

Marske is a very Gothic, old mansion, but its situation for wood and water is excellent, and the park, which is a pretty spot, is well laid out, and commands an extensive view. Having tasted some beverage here, though without accepting a polite invitation to halt, and having seen the stud then on sale, pursued our journey through a pleasant country, and at length arrived within sight of the ancient town of RICHMOND.

This town is delightfully situated on a hill, or *mount*, at the foot of which is a *rich*, fertile valley, and from these circumstances, with a small variation in the word, it derives its present name of *Rich-mount*, or Richmond: it was formerly a place of some strength, being surrounded with walls, and had a noble castle, the remains of which add to the beauties of its scenery.

It is still a considerable borough, annexed to the duchy of Lancaster, is governed by a mayor, aldermen, &c. and sends two members to parliament. The chief street, in which the market is held, is spacious, and the houses, most of which are built with free stone, are neat and commodious; but the whole town is as ill paved as Bedale. The views around it, however, are peculiarly romantic, and merit the attention of every traveller of taste, being beautifully diversified; and the town itself, spreading over a hill, produces a fine effect. There are a number of stations, from which all the different scenes may be viewed to advantage. From one eminence, you discover a fine branch of the river *Swale*, winding along the foot of a hanging wood, and forming a charming amphitheatre. From another, you look down upon a delightful valley, through which the same river bends its course, being bordered on one side by steep, rocky woods; and, on the other, by sloping pastures. From a third, you see it rushing through a tuft of hill and wood, in

a most picturesque manner, and taking a fine curve round a grass inclosure, on which stands a cottage, haystacks, &c.

Descending one part of the hill towards the river, as you advance, you discover, at a distance, a small temple, erected by a Mr. Richie, with great taste, in the midst of hanging woods. A beautiful walk, through a meadow, likewise leads to the mouth of a cavern, hollowed out of a rock, on the side of a hill, from which there is another fine view of the river beneath, and of a hanging wood on the opposite bank: and the neat stone bridge, over the Swale, with the castle towering above it, are seen to great advantage from the corner of the terrace, on the banks of the river. In fine, the points of view are as various as the objects which may be discerned from them, and scarcely any one fails to excite admiration,

The road to Topcliffe is excellent, and, on this side of the bridge, we passed by Lord Grantham's plantations. A few miles on the otherside, a view is obtained of *Newby*, his lordship's elegant seat, which stands in a fine situation, and is well protected by the surrounding foliage.

The road here lies over *Cutton Moor*, now inclosed, but which formerly extended as far as Hambledon, and is memorable in history for a famous battle, called the battle of the *Standards*, fought between the English barons, who commanded the English forces for Stephen, king of England, and David I. king of Scotland, who headed the Scottish army, and who was totally defeated. It was called the battle of the Standards, from the following circumstance. The English standard was erected on Cutton Moor, and consisted of the mast of a ship, fitted into the perch of a high four-wheeled carriage, from which were displayed the banners of St. Peter of York, of St. John of Beverley, and of St. Wilfred of Rippon. On the top of the mast was a little casket, containing a consecrated host. The battle was fought August 22, 1138*. The tower of Topcliffe, and a considerable property in land, about it, belong to Lord Egremont.

The views on this road, bounded to the north-east by Hambledon hills, were exceedingly admired by Mr. Gerrard; but, nothing occurring of much

* Dalrymple's Annals of Scotland, vol. 1. p. 74,

consequence, we encouraged our cavalry, all in the first condition, and soon arrived at Northallerton.

My friend, Mr. L. who is an excellent fisher, was following that amusement, and, on alighting at the latter place, we walked out and met him, triumphantly returning with a fine sample of trout and grayling, which, as a novelty to me, were ordered for dinner, and, it is but justice to declare, that I never spent a more agreeable day. The very hospitable and polite attention of Mr. L. and his truly amiable lady, whose engaging qualities render her an ornament and pattern to her sex, made us regret the necessity of so soon leaving this charming spot. Dispatch, however, was necessary, and I was obliged to deny myself, for the first time, the pleasure of an evening's conversation with one of the best of landlords, and the first of sportsmen in all its branches.—Went on to Darlington, and got there, though late, to supper.

June 6. —Rose very early—The morning was uncommonly splendid, and well knowing that there would be sufficient scope for Mr. Garrard's pencil at Durham, did not delay one instant, but proceeded with all haste towards that ancient city.—As we approached nearer, we perceived the language of the people to differ considerably from those we had passed, their pronunciation being of that disagreeable species termed *gutteral*. In point of complexion, too, they are much more swarthy; but found, from some shrewd remarks, that they were by no means deficient in *sense*.

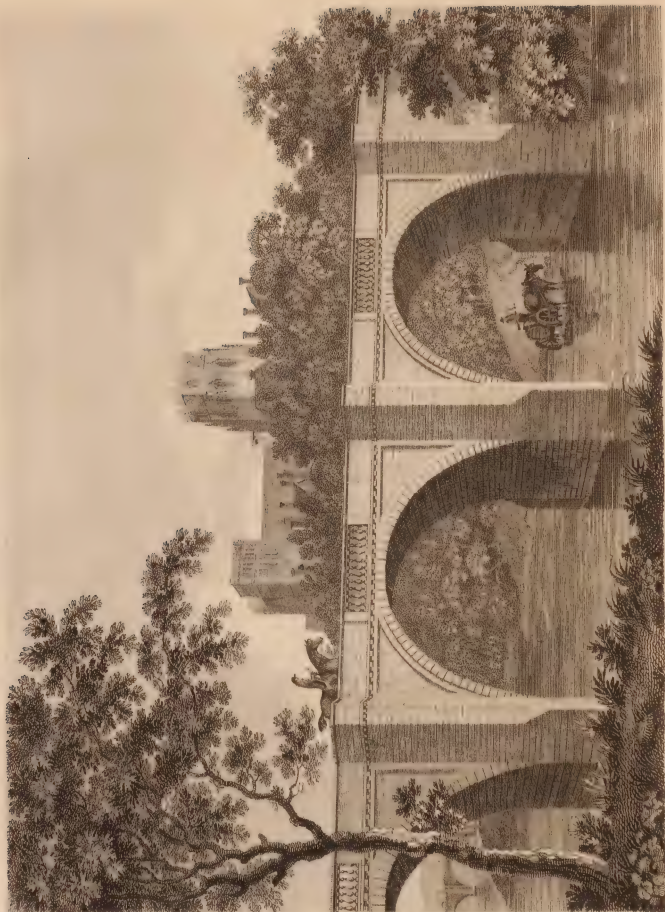
On entering Durham from the Prebends' bridge, my fellow travellers were all amazement, and, conceiving this to be a very superior subject, we sent the servants on to order a good breakfast, and, while Mr. Garrard was drawing, Mr. P. and myself strolled about the town, the walks, &c. and returned in about two hours, finding him almost famished, yet so satisfied with the composition before him, as readily to relinquish the gratification of the appetite for finer feelings.

The situation of Durham is singularly romantic; but the inequality of many of its streets, owing to the hill on which it stands, together with the age and rudeness of its buildings, render the exterior by much the more





VIEW FROM THE NEW BRIDGE DURHAM.



DURHAM.

attractive to a stranger. The approach through a deep hollow, clothed on each side with wood, has a fine effect, and the cathedral, proudly towering on the summit of a high cliff, washed by the river *Wear*, is grand beyond conception.

Put up at the Red Lion, a pretty good inn, where we breakfasted. The view from the bow-window, in the large room of this house, never fails to astonish the traveller; and my friends were not backward in their commendations.

After breakfast we walked to the cathedral, from which we purposed immediately to proceed on our way; but as Mr. Garrard was desirous to correct his view of the bridge, which would take some time, we left him a famous trotting hack, on which he was to follow to Newcastle, where he promised to join us, at least, by three o'clock.

The cathedral is an aged and stupendous pile, and cannot fail to impress the mind of the spectator with awe; but the exterior owes much of its effect to its situation, being otherwise plain, and possessing few claims to elegance. Some of the monastic buildings remain; but most of the ancient tombs have been sacrilegiously destroyed. The bishop, when here, resides at the castle, which is equally elevated with the church. The rides around this city are delightful, exceeding those in the vicinity of almost any other town; but they are still capable of great improvement, which might be effected by very slender exertions of the prebends.

At a small distance, but approached by a most execrable road, is *Bywell*, a very fine modern building, on the banks of that noble river the Tyne, which sometimes proves a troublesome neighbour. Here, in my former journey, being induced to pass the evening with my worthy friend Mr. F. I walked out, and saw the descendants of that well-known horse, *Matchem*, who died but lately, having, from the great repute he was held in, produced to the owner a very handsome income, for many years, and, in value, exceeding all others his contemporaries. This horse, though turned of thirty, was very healthy to his death*.

* *Eclipse*, *Herod*, and *Highflyer*, produced immense sums to their respective owners; but it is probable that *Matchem*, from his constitution, and having no competitors, was, in the early part of his life, by far the most profitable,

Leave Durham—Day warm, with a fine Italian sky. The ride from hence to Newcastle is pleasant, but short, and we were well pleased to catch a new and unexpected view of the Tyne above the town, forming an elegant and easy sweep, and busy with shipping. The descent to the bridge had that effect on my companion, which it must always produce on strangers, and his admiration had scarcely ceased, when we arrived at *Brodie's*. It certainly is a most abominable entrance.

Being the time of the races, the town was quite alive, and, from the accounts of my northern friends, (who were partial in this, as well as in some other instances), expected to find them well worth seeing; but was disappointed, as they appeared but *very moderate*; not that they were ill attended, but the racing part is in the most uncomfortable style imaginable. No *stand*, unless an erection of coarse boards (but which neither protects the company from wind nor weather, and where every squall endangers the necks of the occupiers) can be esteemed such. *Cock-fighting* seems likely to flourish more here than in most parts of England, and this favourite amusement was every where the general topic of conversation.

Strolled about the town with Mr. P. till dinner was ready. At three o'clock no account of our fellow-traveller Mr. Gerrard. At half after three, in full trot, over a very indifferent pavement, he arrived, and explained to us the cause of his delay. It arose from his having been as much pleased as ourselves with a very fine view down the river from the old bridge of Durham, which he had determined to sketch, and, his being thus detained, had occasioned the velocity with which he arrived at Brodie's. We were, however, much satisfied with the drawings, and by no means regretted waiting for him. Dinner was soon on table, and, as we determined not to loiter, made all possible expedition, drank a few glasses of wine, and then proceeded for *Morpeth*, not without admiring the infinite pains and expence bestowed by Mr. Brandling in improving his estates, in the centre of which stands a very handsome mansion, waiting for protection from some infant plantations, in a thriving condition.

The inn at Morpeth is a good, old-fashioned one, not very showy, but

containing all the necessary requisites.—Sent for King, the dog-breaker, who had supplied me with setters some years since, as I passed to college.—Found him uncommonly well, for a man of his years, which proves that air and exercise tend not only to preserve health, but, by that vigour which they give the constitution, promote longevity.

Rose again very early.—This began to discompose Mr. P. accustomed to stir, according to the southern style, at later hours. We soon, however, bantered him out of his idleness, and he got up with great good temper, when, following his plan, he mounted his hackney, and set off to order breakfast for us at *Weldon Mill*. The road here is execrable for a carriage, being a continued ascent of some miles. On descending, passed a very neat modern church, when, the hill being in our favour, we stopped at the bridge foot, and while the horses were feeding, and breakfast preparing, rambled along the borders of the beautiful river *Cocket*, in good condition for fishing, could we have spared time. After breakfast, having advanced the carriage and horses a mile, as we walked smartly on, an accident occurred which had like to have proved serious. A favourite pointer, that attended us, happened to be playfully rambling about, when, on a sudden, he was attacked by a very large and furious mastiff, which rushed forward, apparently with an intention to destroy him; we immediately interfered, and the attack, in an instant, was changed from the pointer to us. Mr. P. had no other offensive weapons than stones, which he threw at the creature, who, contrary to the general custom with these animals, valued them not, and was in the act of flying at my friend, when I gave him the severest crack I could with my gig whip. This changed the attack to me. I had no defence, but parrying, as skilfully as I could, with my whip and my hat: the latter I took off to allow him to seize it, when he had broken the whip, which he soon did, and intended, as soon as he had fairly seized the hat, by some violent kicks, on the tender parts of his belly, to defend myself, or rather to defeat my antagonist; a way, when at college, and priding myself on this *métier*, I have

often effected, under that very superior master, in this mode of fighting, Mr. C——n. But courage is all custom, and had not the owner fortunately come to our assistance, roused by Mr. Gerrard, who had no offensive weapon but his delicate *palette* and more delicate brush, I rather fear I should only have been second in the contest; for a more ferocious, or much larger mastiff, I never saw.

We congratulated each other, that things were no worse, when an observation of the entertaining and sentimental *Sterne* struck me forcibly, "They manage these things better in France;" for, there, in passing through a village, my horses were seized by a large ungovernable mastiff, very similar to the present, when, having an air-gun, and several pistols in the carriage, I shot at him with the former. The ball went in very near his heart; but still my companion, Mr. Peirce, and myself, were obliged to fire a brace of pistols at him, before he would let go his hold: he was desperately hurt, and must have died soon after of his wounds, all of which were apparently mortal.

Having overtaken the carriage, we proceeded, by a very bad road, with what dispatch it would admit, and, as we advanced, the country improved upon us. Got in good time to *Wooller-Haugh-Head*, an uninteresting town, and the inn as dreadful as the surrounding scenes are enchanting; but, having experienced so severe a stage, we were obliged to rest quietly for some hours.——Dined early, and Mr. P. and myself, mounting our hackneys, rode briskly on, leaving *Milfield Plain* to our right, in order to gain an hour or two's fishing in the pleasing waters of *Teviot*.

I raised and killed a few tolerable trout: my companion was not so fortunate, and blamed his bad luck; when, desirous of seeing his cockney-mode of fishing, I perceived that he fished with a fly as he would with a worm. I was polite enough to look as grave as any fly-fisher could be supposed to do, till he walked down the stream, not without taking a view of the paltry trout I had caught with a mixture of surprise and envy.

As soon as I conceived him fairly out of hearing, I gave vent to my hitherto-stifled emotions, and, laughing immoderately, my foot slipped, and I

had nearly gone headlong into the river. He, it seems, had heard me, and, very good-naturedly, came and asked me, what the d—! I was laughing at, and whether I had seen a female, or any other cause of such extraordinary mirth. I begged he would forgive me; and then plainly told him my mirth was occasioned by his style of fly-fishing. He looked rather disconcerted, and, after clipping off a considerable quantity of his best flies, the number of which he carefully concealed, was readily induced to give up, and fish with worm, and killed, in the course of the evening, as many trout as made him, who had never killed a trout before, the happiest man living.

Mr. Garrard passing by, left the carriage and joined us; when fishing the last stream, I hooked a fish, which I thought of great magnitude, and took considerable pains to kill him, but he proved less than I had imagined: about three pounds and a half, but in the highest condition, thick to the very fork, and yellow as saffron, as all these trout are.

We now packed up our rods, and made the best of our way to the inn, Mr. Garrard being much delighted with the verdant downy country around us.—Killed 39 trout—Mr. P. 3.

June 9.—Rose early, killed some small trout, trolled with a minnow, and soon felt, in a deep pool, a fish strike, which I apprehended was a very large trout, and began to play him out, he carrying off my tackle, which was *gut*, like lightning. I conceived it to be a pike, Mr. P. thought otherwise. In the issue, however, I proved right, taking, in the same place, in the *evening*, a very fine pike, of eleven pounds, as yellow as a trout, which species of fish, no doubt, this monster had fed on with impunity. Saw several broods of wild ducks. Had no very great sport in fishing, at least, not such as we expected, the day being so calm and the waters so clear.

Day still hot and sultry. Towards *Mindrum Mills*, passing by a very beautiful river, having a large mill-dam, we stopped, and, adjusting our tackle, made an attempt to fish. Found plenty of very large trout playing, none of which, though a darkish afternoon, rose freely. At length, however, I hooked one, and soon found him equal, and determined, to dispute his life with me, which he did for near a quarter of an hour; but, by the assistance

of my colleague, I landed him; and a very fine fellow he was, as yellow as saffron, and in perfect order: he might weigh about two pounds, but many we saw of double that weight, retreating as soon as they saw us. Killed some small fish, and returned to our inn.

June 10.—Morning lazy—Proceeded by *Mindrum*, whose situation, among those uncommonly-beautiful hills, the Teviot, are unequalled in verdure by any I ever saw. These hills are covered with sheep, and all they want, to make the prospect the most charming imaginable, is, wood and water.—Made an attempt to fish *Loch Wacup*. If we wanted wind at *Mindrum*, we found plenty here: it blew a hurricane, and that, added to the circumstance of the lake being in most parts covered with rushes, obliged us soon to decamp. A small perch, not much bigger than the bait, and a small pike, were taken. Mr. P. also with his gun killed several beautiful white birds, which proved to be *kittiwakes*. The young of this bird are a favourite *whet* in North Britain, being served up a little before dinner to procure an appetite; but, from their rank smell and taste, they seemed to me more likely to have a contrary effect. I was told of a stranger, who was set down, for the first time, to this kind of relish, as he supposed; but, after demolishing half a dozen, with much impatience, he declared, that he had “eaten sax, and did na find himself a bit *more* hungry.” A similar story is told of a late duchess, who, having ate a Soland goose, found no advantage. Came over a cross road, very hilly, and distressing to the carriage-horses, after which passed through a charming country, having the Cheviot or Teviot dales and hills behind us, and the country around *Kelso*, a very beautiful one, in our front. As we took a cross road, and had no guide, I cannot ascertain where we entered Scotland; but was informed, that a rivulet, between *Mindrum* and *Kelso*, crossed by a bridge, is the boundary.—Enter SCOTLAND.

On the right of the road, which we found very indifferent, is indistinctly seen *Coldstream* bridge. The country here appeared very indifferent, until we reached *Kelso* race-ground: the eye was only gratified with looking over a meagre soil, totally denuded of trees, which must have been occasioned



THE ENTRANCE INTO KELSO

as well by its natural poverty as by the consequences arising from the constant state of warfare between the *Borderers*, who, in their reciprocal excursions, not only plundered what was of use to them, but, from a mischievous disposition, or prudently wishing, perhaps, to remove whatever might afford sustenance or shelter to their enemies, mutually destroyed the least vestige of woodland. In this state of warfare, there could be little temptation to plant where there could be no prospect of reaping. Since the UNION, undoubtedly, improvements have taken place; but, though the northern men of rank have exerted themselves more than their southern neighbours in prosecuting every scheme that could tend to improve their estates, and consequently the face of the country, it takes a very considerable period to make these improvements gain any importance, where nature is on a large scale: added to this, infant plantations, not protected by some cover, are little able to resist the unfriendly blast, and consequently make but a slow progress.

Having drove into the Kelso race-ground, stopped a little to admire the vale of Tweed; which we at first thought would afford a very handsome sketch, but soon found too distant to prove a credit on canvass. Came forward to Kelso; were detained a few minutes at the turnpike, which gave us a very favourable opportunity of admiring a healthy, well-made, *sonsy lassie*, whose appearance gave Mr. P. a very favourable impression of Caledonian beauty.

The descent to the bridge is very steep; but, near the foot of the hills, we were agreeably surprised with one of the finest pieces of composition I ever saw for the pencil of an artist, and which Mr. Garrard, having fixed on his station, determined the first opportunity to take. Proceeded to the inn, and just got fairly housed when it rained most heavily, and gave a set of florists (whose annual feast it was) a most complete soaking.

The inn here is large, but incommodious; we found it however a palace to our last quarters. Here we got well refreshed, as did the cavalry, who had suffered greatly at Mindrum; where, notwithstanding the bad accommodation, they knew how to make a very *handsome bill*.

From the shower, we had flattered ourselves with sport in the *Tweed*, and set off with great hopes, after a very good dinner, having had the pike I killed at Mindrum dressed, which proved excellent, and fished up the river. Killed several small trout, but had no great sport, as the water was also here found too clear.

This river is a very dangerous one to the *fisher*, being full of shelves and rapid streams, so that, in the eagerness of playing a fish, should he lose his feet, he must be hurried immediately into a very deep and dangerous stream.

June 11.—We had this morning a thunder shower, which soon *wetted* me, much to my wishes, to the skin; but I was sorry to find it made no impression on the water, which was uncommonly low.

The bridge, the river *Tweed*, the town, abbey, &c. form, in themselves, different beautiful landscapes. Two of these I thought worthy of Mr. *Garrard's* pencil; and, having returned to give the necessary orders at the inn, we joined that gentleman, who had nearly finished his plan. Walking forward, I found he was as much pleased with the second view of the bridge as I had been, and, having a full hour to dinner, he began that also; but he kept us another hour waiting dinner for him, before he had completed it.

Returned to the inn, passed a very pleasant hour or two, and drank the "*Fisher's Delight*," in a couple of *magnums* of very good claret.

It was now half past three, and we had a very tedious drive to *Lauder*, where we meant to sleep. The country round *Kelso*, for its extent, is beautiful, interspersed with wood, verdure, and fine water. The *Duke of Roxborough's* house is well situated, and is a pleasant residence.

Got to *Lauder* by nine o'clock: house only tolerable, which gave my friends but an indifferent opinion of Scotch accommodations; however, they were soon silenced, on my desiring them to compare it with *Wooller-Haugh-Head* and *Mindrum Mills*.

June 12.—*Rose*, as usual, early, intending to breakfast with the king's own dragoons at *Dalkeith*; but, ere we reached it, I knew we had some sad road, as well as an immense ascent to climb; there was, therefore, no time to lose, and

knowing that our cavalry would recover from their exertions at Edinburgh and at Glasgow, both of which places it was necessary, and would be agreeable, for my fellow-travellers to stop at, we went on as fast as the road would permit, and, ascending a very steep hill, ^{had} such a downfall of rain I think I never saw: the servants and Mr. P. were soon most completely wet. I wished, indeed, to have seen the Honourable Mr. B. N. at Lonehead, even for a few minutes, *en passant*; but the weather rendered it impracticable.

Having proceeded for a few miles, I was not a little surprised to find my progress stopped by a number of people, crowded together, to hear a person, who occasionally peeped out of a century-box. Enquiring what could be his intentions, I found it was a parson *preaching* to a half-drowned audience. As I was not, however, of the kirk of Scotland, I drove on, somewhat astonished that the auditors could not be contented with hearing that gentleman's tenets delivered regularly once a week.

Descending to *Dalkeith*, a most interesting view (though seen very unfavourably in this weather) struck my fellow-travellers; but the rain prevented, in a great measure, that noble effect I had observed, the former year, when the day was favourable. The landscape, however, notwithstanding this disadvantage, was wonderful; the different villas scattered around Edinburgh, and its castle perched on a rock, commanding the town; a view of the Frith of Clyde, the island of Bass, and the singular rock of Hamilton, bounded by the Pentland hills to the left, and the coast of Fife, above which are faintly seen, covered with snow, the Highland hills, compose a scene which must excite the admiration of every traveller.

We lamented, not a little, that Mr. Garrard was so unfortunate for a sketch; but he, all eagerness, would not be diverted from the attempt, and, having kept himself tolerably dry in the gig, he begged we would allow him to follow us, as it was now likely to be a fair day.

On entering Dalkeith, the servant I had sent on, met me, and informed me, that all the officers were marched to Edinburgh, to quell some riots, the causes of which he could not explain. This disappointment was of no great

consequence, as we were in hopes of dining there with our friends, at least with such as were not immediately on duty, and sent a card to them for that purpose. Dalkeith, as a town, is of no importance, except what arises from its proximity to the Duke of Buccleugh.

Day windy.—We were now on the high-road to Edinburgh, and a worse day's journey I seldom or never experienced: continual showers of rain involved the whole surrounding country in such a density of vapour as totally to preclude all perception of distant objects, whilst the extreme heaviness of the roads added a weight to every step we took. The *carters*, a set of men, who, affecting English liberty, drive against the carriage of every peaceable traveller they meet, are, on the approach to this town, a perfect nuisance. Even the law is unable to cope with these gentry, who, as a body, defy all correction, and, really ought to be noticed by the gentlemen of the neighbourhood at large. It is fortunate that the carts they drive are but small, and lightly laden, otherwise his majesty would annually lose a greater number of his subjects.

Passed *Louthead*, seven miles from Edinburgh, the seat of that excellent sportsman, and my very worthy friend, Mr. Baron Norton, whose table is justly commended as one of the best served, and most hospitable on this side the Tweed; but found it totally impracticable to pay my respects, owing to the inclemency of the weather and the impassable state of the roads.

EDINBURGH. From the accounts, which were circulated at Dalkeith, that great riots had taken place here, we expected to meet with some difficulty in passing through the town, but found every thing quiet, owing, fortunately for us, to the scene of disturbance being at *Leith*, the sea-port of Edinburgh, and a mile distant.

We had scarcely alighted at *Dun's Hotel*, the cleanest, neatest, and best furnished, in any country, when I was accosted by my old friends, the Earl of Glencairn and Sir Thomas Wallace, and received a pressing invitation to pass the time I stayed in Edinburgh with them. Sent for a blacksmith to examine into the state of the carriages, and put every thing in proper order.

Ordered in two large chests of biscuits, several Cheshire and Gloucester

cheeses, together with a number of Yorkshire hams, rein-deer, and other tongues, hung-beef, &c. in order to be amply provided for a large party. Also laid in about seventy pound weight of fine gunpowder, shot, &c. Bought an additional quantity of fishing-tackle, with six or seven excellent rods, from that ingenious maker *M^r Lean*, and, having provided divers portable gun-cases, plaids, and other necessities, the baggage-waggon was ordered to be ready to set forward in a few days, by Stirling, for Raits.

June 14.—Paid my compliments to Lord S. and Sir James G. to whom I lay under obligations for former acts of civility and kindness. Both these gentlemen received me in the handsomest manner, and, from the latter, I received permission to sport his unbounded estates. Was honoured also with a similar privilege by his Grace of Gordon.

June 15.—The scenes of riot, which we expected to meet with at Edinburgh, on our arrival, had made us determine to leave that place on the following morning; but, on finding them so far removed, we agreed to spend here a day or two, and now learned that a commotion, almost as great, existed among the higher classes, to witness the acting of *Mrs. Siddons*, at this time in the full zenith of her fame, and performing here with that applause she must ever receive from a judicious audience. Wishing to see the effect of this lady's powers, we made a party for the following evening, and, in the interim, took a stroll round the town, a scene perfectly new and entertaining to my companions, who had never before crossed the Tweed.

June 16.—Dined at Fortune's, dinner very crowded and inelegant, the wine tolerable, and the company, consisting chiefly of such officers as were in town, very lively. As I had a pretty universal acquaintance, I undertook to procure seats for my friends at the playhouse; but, having seen *Mrs. Siddons* frequently perform on the London stage, they declined coming till the farce, and then simply to gratify their curiosity in viewing the house, audience, &c.

Rose from table at an early hour, and, with one of my party, attempted to get into the boxes, which, considering the *Siddonian* rage that possessed the town, we effected tolerably well. The impression on the crowd around us

was really astonishing: long murmurs, deep sighs, and tearful handkerchiefs, were plentifully displayed by the ladies, who seemed really striving to outdo each other in sensibility. This fashionable affectation of feeling, for it could be little else, as the larger part of the audience, owing to the fulness of the house, could scarcely hear a syllable, was succeeded by faintings, and the whole was so perfectly *outré*, that, much as I am an admirer of Mrs. Siddons's acknowledged merit, I confess I wished myself more than once back at the hotel. I was soon, however, relieved from my embarrassment by a friend, who now arrived, and who had joined the party at Fortune's, when I left; he had been all day on duty, attending the *riots*, and had received a most violent contusion from a stone or brick thrown at him, which, had it not struck him most fortunately where it did, would probably have been attended with very serious consequences. This gentleman gave a very contemptible account of the leaders of the mob, and spoke in high terms of the commander in chief, General S. who had acted against them, and to whom I had the honour, afterwards, to be introduced. The performance being over, and having taken a general survey of the house, which I thought commodious and well contrived, we returned to Fortune's, where we found the party, as is not unusual in Scotland, still at table. In politeness to us, however, they ordered supper.

June 17. The day seemed formed for us, and M'Lean having delivered to Mr. P. his rods, &c. who was now become, in idea, a great fly-fisher, we took leave of our friends of the third dragoons, some of whom promised faithfully to spend a few days with us at Raits, in the course of the summer, and proceeded on our journey by way of *Princess Street*, a long continued line of regular stone houses, forming the southern side of the New Town.

The appearance of Edinburgh, from this situation, is wonderfully romantic, and must strike every traveller. On the left hand extends *Princess Street*, before-mentioned, forming a most elegant vista of magnificent new buildings. To the right, rising as it were from the depth of a vast *fosse*, called the *North Loch*, stands the old city, fantastically piled on the summit of an immense rock, nearly two miles in length, and abruptly terminated by

the ancient castle, which impends, in sullen grandeur, like the strong hold of some giant of romance.

Turned out of the road, in order to pay a morning visit to Lady G. L. B. C. whose taste in music is only equalled by her execution. She did me the honour to perform several favourite Scottish airs in a style of the most finished excellence, and I could with pleasure have past the whole day in listening to these beautiful and simple melodies, but my friends, with the carriage, were advanced; I was therefore obliged to shorten my visit, and took my leave, admiring the advantageous situation of this elegant villa and the talents of its charming mistress, and, trotting on a pretty good pace, overtook, within a few miles, my fellow-travellers. The road here I found superior to any between Edinburgh and London, and am told, they drive it post as expeditiously as on any part of the English road.

Stopped at the *Kirk of Shotts*, but found the inn so bad, and the whole house so inebriated, that we did not take off the horses, (for now I constantly drove the *tandem*,) but proceeded to *Holly Town*, through a very bleak and dreary country, only enlivened by the seats of Lord Lauderdale, Lord Morton, and Sir William Cunningham.

The inn at Holly Town we found better than the one we had passed, and conversing with Mr. ~~P~~^G on the merits of his hackney, he informed me that he had rode one so superior as to admit of no comparison, and that it was the property of Mr. S. of the third dragoons, who was disposed to part with it. Knowing the use such a trotter would be of to an artist, detained frequently by following his profession, and under the necessity of making quick movements, and also considering the advantages which horses have in such a country as the Highlands over any carriage whatever, I instantly dispatched a messenger and purchased it, and with this additional convenience, we quitted Holly Town, the river *Calder* winding and meeting us at every turn, and affording an opportunity of admiring it in various points of view.

The soil at the Kirk of Shotts is the most naked and barren imaginable. Mr. Campbell's plantations are seen at the distance of a mile from the road,

to the right, approaching **Holly Town**: they are very extensive, and possess great solemnity, and had they been judiciously chequered with a mixture of different trees, as for instance, oak and birch, the foliage of the one and the elegant stems of the other would have varied the tints, and have added greatly to the beauty of the scene. The country from hence to Glasgow is finely bounded by the delightful hills of *Campsey*, the finishing *Grampeii Montes*, and the villas, whimsically built according to the taste of their respective proprietors, with their long and immense avenues of firs, render the approach to that magnificent city truly noble.

My worthy friend Mr. Q. having found the inconveniency of Barrowfield, though but a short distance from town, had removed to the north-east part of Glasgow; we accordingly drove to his house, a neat, comfortable, new mansion, and, after the usual civilities, passed the evening very pleasantly.

Messrs. P. and G. never having been at Glasgow, the next day was occupied in viewing that ancient city, and they were much astonished with the regularity of the streets and the universal magnificence of the buildings. In the evening, we were invited to a ball and supper, the consequence of a bet between two gentlemen: the ball-room was elegantly fitted up, and my companions agreed that handsomer women, or, in general, better dressed, were not to be met with: their style of dancing however quite astonished these *southrons*, scarce able to keep sight of their fair partners. At twelve the supper-rooms were opened, and supper ended, and a few general toasts drank, the ladies retired about three; the gentlemen, as is usual in the north, remained to pay the proper compliments of toasting their respective partners, and I was detained contrary to my wishes till six in the morning, and then got away, leaving the majority by no means disposed to retire.

June 20. Capt. Fleming having politely requested the company of myself and friends to dinner, this day, and having given a positive promise to wait on him, I had ordered the servants to call me at eleven, which they did, and, being dressed, I made enquiries after my friends; particularly Mr. P. whom I had desired Mr. Garrard to attend, as neither of them were

disposed to leave so convivial a party, even at the late hour I quitted. With some difficulty I found Mr. Gerrard, who had so totally forgot the charge he had undertaken, with respect to Mr. P. that he had never once thought of him. As the day was now too far advanced to wait longer, I prevailed on Mr. Finley to accompany me, who is one of the first gentleman performers on the Northumbrian pipe, and possesses such a constant vein of good humour, as makes his company solicited by all ranks, but more particularly by sportsmen, he being a very keen one; and we proceeded to *Barochan Castle*, where we passed the day in the most agreeable manner, and in the morning returned to Glasgow.

June 21. Day fine. My friends wishing to see as much of the environs of this charming city as possible, we rose early, and took a walk round what is called the *Green*, a large, spacious piece of ground, not unlike a park, being walled in, except to the west, which is girded by the river Clyde. This piece of ground has a very excellent walk around it, and is the mall to the town. In the centre stands a very useful square building, inclosing a court, where the washerwomen reside, and dress and dry their linen.

The soil of this green is very rich, and affords excellent pasturage for large herds of cows, and here the gentlemen resort to follow their favourite amusement, the game of *golf*, which is universal throughout Scotland, as well as Holland, where it was most probably introduced by some of the many natives of Scotland who have resided in that country. It is a wholesome exercise for those who do not think such gentle sports too trivial for men, being performed with light sticks and small balls, and is by no means so violent an exertion as cricket, trap-ball, or tennis.

Returned by the edge of the river, in order to inspect the quay and the bridges; neither of which are very curious. The old bridge, like many such erections, possesses little to recommend it in point either of ornament or convenience; indeed, when it was built, carriages were less frequent than at present, and any kind of conveyance will perhaps do for foot passengers. The new bridge is very little superior, being, in my opinion, a poor, tasteless building.

As we wished to return to breakfast, we had but very little time to examine a porcelain manufactory, of the Wedgewood kind, established here. It is in its infancy; but, as the assiduity and perseverance of the North Britons are unparalleled, there can be no doubt but it will succeed.

After breakfast took my friends to see the *College*, as a piece of architecture in no respect extraordinary, but, on other accounts, interesting. The professors' houses are commodious, and near them a very spacious and noble edifice is to be added, to contain the valuable museum of that eminent anatomist and natural philosopher, the late Dr. Hunter, who has bequeathed his collection of anatomical preparations to this learned body, together with a handsome legacy to build proper apartments to receive it, which, when finished, will not only be a considerable advantage to the college, but give consequence to the town.

The plan of education at Glasgow is better arranged than at any other college I am acquainted with: the incentives to vice are infinitely less, owing to judicious regulations and restrictions; whereas the opportunities at Oxford and Cambridge are so great as to make it next to an impossibility for young lively men to resist the temptation.

After paying my respects to some of the professors, not without feeling considerable pleasure from the recollection of many, many happy hours spent within these walls, we took our leave, and went to see that great, stupendous, and inelegant pile of building, the *High Church*; then, taking a little circuit round the north end of the town, returned to dress, the party having received a very handsome invitation to a dinner given by some gentlemen, concerned in the opening of a new hotel, or coffee-house, called the *Tontine*. The house, on examining it, we found to be a very convenient building, the coffee-room very elegant indeed, but much too large for the company likely to resort to it. The dinner was well served, turtle and every other luxury in profusion; nor did the donors allow the *magnums* to remain un replenished, and the evening was concluded with a private ball and supper. In fine, every thing was conducted with a propriety and decorum that did honour to the persons concerned.

June 22.—Went to visit my friend, Mr. Dreghorn, whose civilities demand my warmest acknowledgments; for, though no fisher himself, and not an early riser, he, with great complaisance, offered to meet us at Berduce Loch, about six or seven miles from Glasgow, and introduce us to the proprietor.

The *coup d'œil* of this lake is really beautiful: it is surrounded by gently-rising ground, divided into large pastures, rather deficient in wood, an objection the proprietor has attempted very judiciously to obviate, by making some handsome plantations. These are very thriving, and, when in full growth, will have a fine effect, and make this place, which at present is very enviable, a charming spot.

The proprietor, Mr. Allan, we met, and from him received a full permission to follow our amusement, giving us the use of his boat, &c.

In order to secure sport, I had sent off, the evening before, a hair-dresser, who, when I was at college, used to attend me, and other friends, on fishing parties, in order to procure me pike baits; and for him we impatiently waited some hours: he at length made his appearance, attended by two of his fraternity, who brought us literally no other baits than *pickled herrings*. Our prospects with such apparatus could of course not be great, we therefore relinquished the idea of sport for that day, and, taking a general view, formed plans for the next. Returned to Glasgow, and, on our way, taking a different road, passed some very beautiful villas, and crossed the great canal which was intended to join the Friths of Forth and Clyde; a noble undertaking, that does honour to the projectors. This communication, which is completely finished to within a mile of Clyde, is not, from the number of locks found necessary, designed, I believe, to go any further. Dined at Glasgow.

June 23.—Day favourable: by seven o'clock we again got to Berduce, where a party had engaged to meet us: we found Mr. Dreghorn there, who introduced us to Mr. and Mrs. Allan. This lady and her husband inhabit a small old castle, with iron doors, on the verge of this lake, and a charming situation it is, well deserving a better mansion. Mrs. Allan is a Sheffield lady, and the family being up, and breakfast ready, we were

introduced to the Miss Allans, pretty Scottish girls, with easy, unaffected manners, and open countenances.

After breakfast made our bows, and proceeded to the boat, but found that our barbers had a second time persevered in not complying with orders*, and we were again in a great measure disappointed.

With the few baits we had, however, we made a beginning. The fox-hounds were now got ready, and, after a short time, they killed nine very fine pike. I attempted *fly* without success, but in trolling succeeded better, killing, with a perch, the only bait to be procured, a pike of above four pounds, wonderfully well fed.

Returned to *Rough Hill*, a villa of Mr. D——n, where, as at the preceding entertainments, those gentlemen who had been formerly my friends met me; and, I may say, I never saw a more hospitable or better-served table in any country.

The pike were brought here, and some of the best ordered for dinner, which proved very excellent. The perch were incomparable, and it is very remarkable, that two of them were full of large shot, so driven into their bones as to be extracted quite flattened, though the fish were, apparently, in perfect health.

Returned to Glasgow in the evening, highly pleased with our day's diversion. I must observe, here, that it is no uncommon thing to kill forty pike, at this lake, in a day. Two friends of mine, on whose veracity I can depend, assured me they had killed, with fly, the one forty, the other forty-three; and, we, probably, might have had equal success; but our want of baits, and the unfavourable state of the weather, the wind being strong and east-erly, made much against us.

Returns of the day, two perch and ten pike.

June 24.—Day warm, paid my compliments to Mr. Crawford at Castle

* The Scotch gentlemen, I found, give the people that attend them, on sporting parties, more liberty than we do in the south, which, except among such as have a great share of good sense, is a misfortune. To a stranger, in particular, it seems bordering on insolence, which is by no means intended.

Milk. The view from this place, in a favourable day, having the whole command of the town of Glasgow, four miles distant, and the most of Clydesdale, is charming, but much of its beauty was obscured, at this time, by a very thick fog. Returned to Glasgow.

June 25.—Day warm. Attended by Mr. D. went again this day, in hopes of sport, to Berduce. We had now taken every precaution human reason could devise, to insure diversion, and, in order to get baits, had sent a very well-adapted net and two good fishers, but could only procure four trout. With these, without loss of time, being engaged eight miles off to dinner, we baited the fox hounds, and Merlin soon got a view; and after a burst down the lake, of a full mile, we killed a noble pike, of about eleven pounds, and, considering the continued storm, which only abated just when we left it, we thought ourselves fortunate*.

June 26.—Having sufficiently gratified the curiosity of my friends, in viewing the city and environs of Glasgow, we proposed to set out for Dumbarton, in our way to Loch Lomond, intending to pass a day or two with Mr. Donald and Mr. Stirling, both gentlemen with whom I had been well acquainted. We were easily induced to take an early dinner; but, though the horses and carriage were at the door more than once, the appearance of the evening, threatening heavy rain, made us relinquish our design, on the solicitations of Mr. Orr and family, and that without any violence to our feelings.

* In order to describe this mode of fishing, it may be necessary to say, that I make use of pieces of *cork* of a conical form, and having several of these all differently painted, and named after favourite hounds, trifling wagers are made on their success, which rather adds to the spirit of the sport.

The mode of baiting them is, by placing a live bait, which hangs at the end of a line, of one yard and a half long, fastened only so slightly, that on the pike's striking, two or three yards more may run off to enable him to gorge his bait. If more line is used, it will prevent the sport that attends his diving and carrying under water the hound; which being thus pursued in a boat, down wind, (which they always take) affords very excellent amusement; and where pike, or large perch, or even trout are in plenty, before the hunters, if I may so term these fishers, have run down the first pike, others are seen coming towards them, with a velocity proportionable to the fish that is at them.

In a fine summer's evening, with a pleasant party, I have had excellent diversion, and it is, in fact, the most adapted, of any, for ladies, whose company gives a *gusto* to all parties.

Mr. Finley, having seen the carriage, came to wish us a good journey, sport, &c. and finding us determined to stay, was induced to send for his pipes, which he did most readily, without that hesitation which is so disagreeable, that it takes away half the pleasure of a favour conferred. Two more gentlemen joined our party, we became very sociable, and so much did the group, enlivened by the music of the pipes, please Mr. Garrard, that he begged leave, while the bottle circulated, to be permitted to sketch it: this employment he chose the more readily, probably from the recollection of the introduction he had had to the ball and supper, the preceding Wednesday evening, which had given him a complete distaste to drinking, though at all other times a very convivial man.

June 27.—It had rained incessantly all night, and continued to give us no hopes till about *ten*, when the sky seemed to break, and promise a fine day. Took leave of our friends, with the intention of going to *Luss*, at which place we were in hopes of meeting with a party of gentlemen, one or two of them professors of the college, who were to halt there in their way to measure the height of Ben Lomond, in which expedition I had promised to attend them.

Came to *Kelvin*, but found the bridge over the river had been broken down, and, though newly repaired, was scarcely passable: we had the prudence, under these circumstances, to get out of the carriage, and by that means probably saved our lives, as the shaft-horse swerved, when half across, in such a manner, that it was impossible but that, with our additional weight, he would, otherwise, have gone over, and we must have been dashed to pieces in the torrent below, foaming at a tremendous distance with the agitations occasioned by the preceding heavy rains.

The soil on each side of the road, towards Dunnotter, is a good loam, and bears the appearance of excellent management. Mr. Donald's farm in particular evinces to the traveller what may be done by a man of sense and taste.

While we were contemplating the beautiful Frith of Clyde, with the different cutters and other shipping smoothly gliding on its surface, we met the gentlemen returning, who promised to wait for us at *Luss*, and who now



DUNBARTON CASTLE.

made their apologies for disappointing us. The fact was, the former days had been so peculiarly favourable for their experiments, that they had thought it prudent to embrace the opportunity, and these reasons I, from a knowledge of the uncertain climate in which Ben Lomond stands, was disposed most readily to admit. The day they had chosen was in every respect answerable to their wishes, and, after promising to send me their accounts of what had passed, with their measurements, &c. we parted.

Proceeded on our journey, and having received letters to a Mr. Gillies, who superintends the iron-works at Dunnotter, paid that gentleman a visit, while Mr. P. who had no great curiosity for such scenes, undertook to order dinner at Dumbarton. As the weather still continued fair, and Mr. Garrard was offered every convenience to assist his pencil from Mr. Gillies, he sat down, while I examined the iron-works, and afterwards walked towards Bowling Craig, and took a very correct sketch of the beautiful prospect which unfolds itself from this romantic spot, comprehending the Frith of Clyde, Lord Blantyre's house, a distant view of Finlston, the seat of the Earl of Glencairne, with Port Glasgow and Greenock barely discernible; and to the left Mr. Buchanan's obelisk and Dumbuck, the whole bounded by the fantastic, bold rock of Dumbarton. This sketch he finished, as was always his practice, at the first inn we had occasion to stop at: a very excellent method, and earnestly to be recommended to painters in general, who are apt frequently to leave too much to memory. A neglect of this rule is the reason, probably, that several drawings, even of that eminent master, S——by, are by no means so just as they might have been.

Bowling Craig, with its beautiful covering of brushwood, afforded me all the pleasure of an old friend, as it brought to mind some excellent *cock shooting* I had had with my former college companion, Sir Thomas Wallace. I observed, on attentively examining it, a very considerable fissure, which appeared to me to indicate strongly the ravages of an earthquake, though I am unacquainted with any historical evidence to support such a conjecture.

Having thanked Mr. Gillies for his civilities, we mounted the gig, and continued our route, as it now began to wet again. We expected to reach

Dumbarton before the shower, but were mistaken, for, at the distance of about half a mile, a sudden jerk broke one of the traces, owing to the neglect of the groom, who had not sufficiently attended to my constant orders, to examine every part of the carriage, harness, &c. most minutely, and particularly so when entering the Highlands, where no assistance could be expected but from our own ingenuity.

We enquired for a cobbler, as the likeliest person to assist us, and having found one, in a quarter of an hour the damage was repaired. It now rained pretty freely, but we went on at a good trot, and got to Dumbarton tolerably wet, but were nevertheless much pleased with the indistinct view of the castle, Clyde, &c. seen through the heavy vapours that surrounded them.

DUMBARTON is a small, indifferent town, the inn not extraordinary, but tolerably comfortable. Here a good fire being made, and having got dressed, we were keen for dinner. On enquiring what was the distance to Jeelston, which, though well acquainted with the country some years, I had now forgot, I dispatched a messenger to give notice that we should breakfast there the next day, when our landlord informed me, that there was an English gentleman in his house, who appeared to be as eager for fair weather, to take an accurate view of Dumbarton castle, as ourselves. We sent our compliments, and desired his company to dinner, which he readily accepted; for, as we had previously bespoken the best rooms, &c. he was but indifferently accommodated. He soon joined us, and produced his sketches: Mr. Gerrard did the same, and, as we had differed in our plan, and also in our tract, we mutually amused each other, both artists remaining anxious for the morning.

June 28. — Rose with the lark, and sent to Mr. Gerrard; but he had the advantage of me, having been up half an hour, and at work. Mr. P. and self, therefore, mounted our hackneys, and rode to Mr. Donald's at Jeelston, taking *Pero* with us, and leaving directions with one of the servants to take the gig to Mr. Stirling's, about two miles off, where we meant to dine. Our ride was pleasant, the day delightful, and a nearer view of Port Glasgow and

Greenock pleased us much; but we found every thing ready for breakfast, and, being pretty keen for it, postponed admiring any other subject. Waited, sauntering about this pleasing, neat, retirement, till near ten o'clock, when Mr. Garrard, on his *Black Susan*, made his appearance, having already breakfasted. He had been highly delighted with the subject of Dumbarton rock and castle, and equally so with the views he had passed. As we had no time to spare, Mr. D. was pleased to order his horses, and attend us over a ridge of moors that divides Loch Lomond from the Frith of Clyde. Here, as we ascended, the day continuing fine, and the soil being dry, we got down and walked, and, in a few moments, gained a peep at the magnificent Loch Lomond, so highly and deservedly celebrated by all travellers. I now recollected the view behind us, and desired my friends to turn round, when a scene, worthy the pencil of Claude, burst on the eye. Before us lay the Frith of Clyde, crowded with shipping, beyond, Port Glasgow, gilded by the rays of the rising sun, then Greenock, Gunoch, the Isle of Bute, Roseneath, the seat of the Duke of Argyle, with the blue hills in the distance, half wrapt in vapours; a landscape unequalled almost by any I ever beheld. Carrying the eye round to admire Loch Lomond again, and not sufficiently satiated with either view, we were about to sit down, in order to examine both more minutely, when we discovered Pero, whom we had not attended to before, *pointing*. I remembered having shot two brace and a half of black cocks, and several moor-game, some years since, on this very ridge; and I hoped this *point* would produce black-game, rather than grouse, though my friends had never seen either, and were extremely anxious to gratify their curiosity. We soon came up to the dog, who still maintained his point; and so interesting was his attitude to Mr. Garrard, that he immediately set about preserving it by a sketch. He had just accomplished this, when Pero moved forward, and, after footing a little, we sprang the brood, which consisted of twelve well-grown grouse.

Mr. D. much pleased with the dog's performance here, wished us a good morning, and we descended a little lower down the ridge, to a spot called *Kelester*, where, being nearer the lake, we conceived the view would become

more interesting. While Mr. Garrard was drawing, I took a ride with Mr. P. to show him the different glens hereabouts, which are so finely situated for woodcock hawking, that I have killed with my hawks, in one week, no less than forty-nine woodcocks.

A view of these beautiful retirements was not a little gratifying to me, who recollected many hours here innocently and healthfully enjoyed; but I now found, by my watch, that it was high time to get back to Mr. G. In order to do this, and save ground, we attempted to cross the moor; but Mr. P. less acquainted than myself with the treachery of the soil, got apparently a bad fall, and sunk his horse up to the skirts in a *bog*. I made towards him, and found he was not hurt, though rather disconcerted, having torn his coat and considerably bespattered himself. He was uttering, as is natural, some disrespectful ejaculations about Scottish bogs; but, on my helping him to extricate his Arabian poney, he soon regained his accustomed good temper. We now rejoined Mr. G. who had just finished his view, and only wanted a little assistance from me, to mark in the island of Inchmerin, &c. which having given him, we descended the hill, as soon as possible, and, reaching the high road to Dumbarton, trotted on briskly towards Mr. Stirling's.

The face of the river here appeared much altered since I saw it last, nearly the whole extent of the north side being taken up with bleaching grounds, by which means the noble trout and salmon fishing there has been greatly hurt. The situation of Mr. Stirling's is delightful, and the society of this very excellent family, with whom I had been acquainted in former years, made me feel myself as easy as they were, which is the true character of all well-bred Scottish families.

June 29.—Rose early, and amused ourselves with examining my friend's extensive manufactory of *calico printing* and *bleaching*, which has here arrived to such a degree of perfection, that strangers can scarcely form an idea of the quantity of labour performed by the number of hands employed. This excellent undertaking is conducted chiefly by young women; but as far as personal charms are in question, I confess I never was so much disappointed:

out of fifty there was scarcely one even tolerable, which is widely different from the case of the Scottish ladies, who, in general, excel their southern neighbours. On reflection, I am quite convinced, that a certain degree of luxury is absolutely necessary to create and protect beauty, that the want of it hardens the features, and that hot rooms, late hours, and other fashionable excesses, destroy it. After a very pleasant saunter, and having swallowed a little *half-Highland* air, for we were only four miles from the bridge of Freume, which divides the Highlands from what is called, here, the *low country*, we sat down, like hunters, to breakfast. The butter, I observed, was peculiarly excellent, but the honey, we thought, partook of the flavour of the wild heath, though by no means unpleasant.

Breakfast over, and not wishing to interfere with Mr. S's necessary business, the ladies admitted us to their party, and we took a pretty extensive walk along the side of the river, when, observing several salmon leap, I sent for my rod, but the servant brought the *trout* one; I killed, however, in the course of a short time, a few pretty good trout, and sent the same servant forward to the Moss of Balloch, at the mouth of Loch Lomond, with orders to get us a boat, in order to go to the island of Inchmerin. The ladies readily agreed to favour us with their company to this charming spot, and Mr. S. having given his orders for the day, soon joined us with the requisite refreshments, &c.

The weather was just what we could have wished it; but the boat was an awkward, large, incommodious vessel: we were all, however, so disposed to enjoy the day, that these inconveniences were quickly forgot. In fact, it was impossible for men to complain in our circumstances, blest as we were with two fair ladies, a beautiful day, and sailing on the finest lake in the universe.

We soon landed at the romantic Inchmerin, the most considerable island on the lake, being nearly two miles in circumference, delightfully wooded, and plentifully stocked with deer, besides, what may be thought not quite so pleasant an accompaniment, a few wild *bears*, turned in there by Lord Graham. From the latter, however, we received no injury.

Having taken out our provisions, which we left at the park-keeper's cottage, we began to ramble over this fairy spot; but, as the sun became rather powerful, we soon returned, and, perceiving a very elegant hillock, well shaded, sat down, and enjoyed the cold collation we had brought, which over, the ladies sung some charming, plaintive Scottish ballads, to the great delight of our little party. The moments, "wing'd with pleasure," flew unnoticed, and the downward rays of the afternoon's sun, alone, proclaimed the lapse of time; thus warned, we tore ourselves from the scene of enchantment with regret, and, having requited the park-keeper's family, prepared for our return home.

As we rowed around the island, I had a rise from a fine fish, which I hooked, and got, with some difficulty, into the landing-net. It was a trout, and might weigh about three pounds. Killed, afterwards, two more of a pound, and saw several wild-ducks and other water-fowl, which made me determine, on my next visit, to bring the gun, as well as rods. The carriages were now ready at the beach, and we got home, highly delighted with our excursion, in good time to supper.—Returns, 11 trout.

June 30. — Recollecting the salmon I had observed to leap yesterday, though I prefer trout-fishing, I was inclined to see what might be done, and accordingly rose by five, and rode sharply on to the moss of Balloch, where I made interest with the master of the fishery to be allowed to kill some salmon. He was as civil as I could wish, and assured me the river was full. I therefore began my operations, and, before eight o'clock, killed five, to the no small surprise of Mr. Garrard. One of them weighed forty-one pounds; the others from twenty-two to nine pounds. Having put up my tackle, and perfectly satisfied with my success, I returned home as expeditiously as possible, and very much astonished Mr. P. and the family, unacquainted with mine and Mr. Garrard's early excursion, and conceiving we were yet in bed.

After breakfast, offering our warmest thanks for the friendly reception we had met with, and faithfully promising to return in autumn, we took leave, and proceeded on the expedition we had planned the day before.

Got into the boat, and having our rods adjusted, and some *pars** ready for trolling, which my servant had caught in the edges of the river, while I was fishing for salmon, I baited a pair of snap hooks, that might serve for pike or large trout. The day was warm, and little or no breeze stirring, which made all hopes of success vanish, I was too keen, however, to listen to the dictates of reason; and having tried several Bays, got a slight rise. At length I found I had fairly hooked a fish, which I supposed to be a pike, and soon killed him; but he proved to be a trout, not in very good order, of about two pounds. Moving slowly on, I afterwards hooked a small pike of five pounds.

Mr. Garrard, being now anxious to take his view of Inchmerin, requested that the boatman might be ordered to row directly to the opposite shore, between the mansions of Messrs. Smollet and Ruits, which we were admiring as placed in most enchanting situations. Indeed, the magnificent assemblage of objects here is truly astonishing. The finest lakes, the noblest range of elegantly-formed mountains, islands clothed with verdure, wood, and a large proportion of finely-improved arable country, compose a picture that no pencil can do justice to. Nor is this scene less gratifying to the sportsman than to the artist; for the greater part of the country around abounds with the finest fishing of all kinds, and every species of shooting, cock-shooting in particular. Not less than one hundred wood-cocks, besides snipes, hares, partridges, ducks, and some few black game, have I seen in one day, during the different excursions I have made to this neighbourhood.

Such noble sailing, good coursing, &c. must render this an unequalled family residence; but it has, besides these, other advantages, no less important. The roads along the lake, or what are called the *military* roads, being made by the soldiery, and supported by an aid from government, are excellent; and every species of fuel, coals excepted, which are easily ob-

* The *Sunlet*, Br. Zool. Vol. III. No. 148. "It is a small species of trout, seldom exceeding eight or nine inches in length, marked on the sides with nine large bluish spots, and, on the lateral one, with small red ones."

tained from Dumbarton, the lake affords at an easy expence. The Frith of Clyde, five miles over the hills, supplies, at a moderate rate, all kinds of sea-fish; Loch Lomond, and the rapid Leven, all sorts of *fresh*; and that in such profusion, that I have seen one hundred and twenty-three salmon, some fine trout and pike, all taken at one haul. In short, no situation can be more enviable, particularly to a sportsman; for, though some parts of the Highlands may be still superior for summer-shooting, they are, in other respects, not so desirable.

Mr. P. whose rod I had adjusted with *fly*, hooked a good trout, of about three pounds, which, with some difficulty, we got into the boat; and, as the boatmen made what dispatch they could to get us across to Inchmerin, having little expectation of taking any more fish, we drew in our rods, and, a boat passing by, we hailed it, and prevailed on the men to row Mr. P. towards the mouth of the river Freume, and afterwards to land him at Inchmerin, where we expected to stay some hours.

Recollecting to have seen, the preceding day, many water-fowls around the island, I loaded my gun with good patent number 2. We had perceived several cormorants, ducks, and other water-fowl, at a distance, and, approaching the island, observed some dash into the lake; and, as the little wind we had blew near shore, I ordered the boatmen to let the boat drive as gently as possible, that I might gain a shot. This I effected, and killed a bird, which, by the assistance of honest Pero, as eager as any *Newfoundlander*, we got, and it proved to be a fine *mallard*.

Mr. Garrard having chosen his station for drawing from the lake, the boat came, and landed me, and Mr. P. with the shot soon followed. As he was not much disposed to shoot, we sauntered along the shore, thinking it probable a shot might be gained at some of the ducks, our firing had alarmed, which appeared to alight round the island. In the course of our walk, saw several *sand-pipers**, or *sandy leverocs*, as they are here called. They resemble a *jack snipe*, only are less, and not worth a fire. On a

* Pennant's British Zoology, vol. ii. p. 392.





ISLE OF ISCHNERA

small craggy bay, saw what I conceived to be a duck, and, making a circuit, got pretty well behind a large fragment of rock, where I obtained a very good shot, and hit him. It proved to be a *cormorant*. Pero gave me all the assistance he could, but, as the bird was only severely wounded, and dived frequently, after losing near an hour, I determined to load again, and lamented I had not done so before, as he was now out of shot. The dog, however, stuck close to him; and, having designedly got out of sight of the lake, I perceived the bird's intention to return among the broken rocks that appeared above the water. He approached us fast, when, thinking him near enough, I fired rather before him, and killed him; and Pero, an almost *amphibious* animal, for never, surely, was a setter so fond of water, brought it to me, highly satisfied with his own merits and our applause. We now returned to Mr. Garrard, whom we found deeply engaged; and, hailing him, he assured us he was just giving the finishing touches to his piece; the servant was therefore ordered to lay the dinner on the *board of green cloth* which Nature had kindly spread for our reception, and every thing was soon ready. Mr. Garrard, perceiving our movements, dispatched his business, and soon joined us, gratifying our expectations to the full with an accurate view of this charming scene. We, in return, showed him the duck, and afterwards the cormorant, with which he was quite delighted, and joined in opinion with Mr. P. that it would make an excellent repast at a Highland inn*.

* The southern gentlemen, particularly those in the vicinity of the metropolis, never see game of any kind, without expressing, instantaneously, their inclinations for a *roast*; nor is this peculiarity confined to them; for every alderman expresses, on such occasions, the same emotions. I remember a singular instance, that cannot but be recollected likewise by those members of the Falconers' Club who were present, and there was a large field. A Mr. A. attended by a little hump-back servant, with a large portmanteau, joined our party, ranging for *kite* near Elden Gap. At length one was seen in the air, and I ordered the owl to be flown. He came, as we wished, at a proper distance. The day was fine, and the hawks, particularly *Javelin* and *Icelanderkint*, in the highest order; and with them *Crocus*, a famous flight falcon. Never was

† The name of a species of hawk taken only in Iceland: sometimes, indeed, they have been taken at sea, being blown off by stormy weather, which was the case with one sent to me from *Davie's Streights*.

We now proposed sailing up the lake to Luss, and, contemplating the islands as we passed, which are situated on its western side, determined to *troll* after five o'clock. *Rosedoe*, the most capital mansion on this piece of water, was the property of Sir James Colquhoun, and, being an acquaintance, I meant to dine with him, and return to our old quarters, at which place, I knew, we should find entertainment for some days.

Trolled the whole of Cumstradder Bay, but without success. Not easily given to despair, trolled it a second time, and, at length, killed a shabby jack of about three pounds. The appearance of the lake in this part was so likely to harbour fish, that I had hoped for the best sport; but, in that, as in other appearances, I was mistaken.

There was now little or no curl on any part of the water, and, where it was sheltered from the breeze, like a faithful mirror, it reflected the charming objects around. Inch-Stevanoch, finely clothed with wood, principally oak, and Cumstradder, the seat of a Mr. Colhoun, were particularly prominent in this aquatic picture. The gentleman, who owned the latter, now in the decline of life, I had the honour to be acquainted with; but declined visiting, as he had lately sustained a heavy family misfortune in the loss of his son, a promising young man, who died at Gibraltar. We, therefore, ordered our boatmen to coast around Inch-Stevanoch, and then cross over to the harbour of Luss.

there a finer day, keener company, or, for six miles, a finer flight. When he was taken, in an ecstasy I asked Mr. A. how he liked kite-hawking? He replied, with a sort of hesitation that expressed but small pleasure, "why, pretty well." We then tried for *hare*, with a famous hawk, called *Sans Quartier*. After ranging a little, we found one, and, in about two miles, killed it. Mr. A. coming up again slowly, unwilling, or unable, to leave his portmanteau, I repeated my former question; and, though the flight of a *hare* is fine, yet, being no way equal to that of a kite, was surprised to see his countenance brighten up, and to hear him express himself with uncommon pleasure. "Ay, *that*," he said, "was a nobler kind of hawking; the hare would be of use—a good *roast*—the kite of none." Desirous to gratify his wishes, and to get quit, on such easy terms, of the trouble the servants would have to carry an old jack hare, in the month of May, I begged his acceptance of it, to which he very readily assented; and his servant was ordered to add this trophy on the top of the enormous portmanteau. I leave every sportsman to guess the observations that were made by a set of lively young men on the occasion.

The dusky night advanced fast upon us, and the last faint glimmerings of day began to fling that sober tint on the surrounding objects, which is so peculiarly calculated to produce agreeable emotions, and fill the soul with a sort of poetic fervour. As we slowly floated on the liquid element, the babbling of the adjacent brooks, discharging themselves into this grand receptacle; the faint roarings, heard from distant water-falls, and the gentle undulations of the waves, softly stealing on the ear, heightened the effect. For a while every care was hushed, our feelings denied the power of utterance, and each sat absorbed in his own delicious reflections, when, in an instant, the moon, bursting through a cloud, dispelled the illusion, and produced exclamations of surprise and rapture at the vision it displayed. Never surely did enchantment, or, even, the magic workings of fancy, present a more glorious picture. It was all the poet so elegantly describes in his celebrated night scene:

“ As when the moon, refulgent lamp of night,
O'er heaven's clear azure, spreads her trackless light;
When not a breath disturbs the deep serene,
And not a cloud o'ercasts the solemn scene:
Around her throne, the vivid planets roll,
And stars unnumber'd gild the glowing pole.
O'er the dark trees a yellower verdure shed,
And tip with silver ev'ry mountain's head.
The conscious swains, rejoicing at the sight,
Eye the blue vault, and bless the useful light*.”

Landed at the village of *Luss*, called here a *town*, which name they give even to four or five cabins. This place is almost washed by the lake, the shore of which, covered with a strata of whitish pebbles, cannot but be beautiful in such a situation, though little enjoyed or admired by its inhabitants. After a short walk, of a quarter of a mile, came to the inn, which I hoped to have found much improved, as other parts of the country appeared to be; but cannot say I found the difference here I had expected.

Great complaints were made by the servants, and Mr. P. who had the care of superintending the cavalry, that the stables were not divided, the hay bad, but little straw, and no coach-house. All this I guessed would

* Pope's Homer.

happen very soon, but not at Luss; however, reminding him of the glorious day we had spent, and of the scenery around us, he was soon pacified, and particularly so, as supper came in at that moment, which, though not sumptuous, was yet good and plentiful. We were soon at rest, having previously ordered the boatman to be ready at five in the morning, in order to take a day's fishing, visiting, and shooting on the island, &c. Our beds were, all things considered, very comfortable.

July 1.—We were all so anxious this day, that it was difficult to say which was the earliest riser. The first plan was that of killing, in the brook adjoining to the house, some small trout, and pars as baits for trolling. In this business Mr. P. succeeded so well, that I could scarcely prevail on him to return to breakfast: he did at last, however, and found that we had collected about thirty. Mr. Garrard had been as deeply engaged with his drawings, which, with difficulty, he could finish to his mind; for, as often as he looked out of the window, fresh scenes, and new beauties crowded upon him, and he was so absorbed, that he had totally forgot to order breakfast: it was, nevertheless, ready by seven o'clock, and we did not keep it long waiting; and having finished, and ordered cold meat and liquors to be carried aboard, together with our guns, fishing-tackle, &c. we hurried down to the boat, and were embarked before nine.

I now began to troll, and, in about a quarter of an hour, hooked a famous large fish. At that instant, a sharp squall came on, which took the sides of the boat, though large, and much above water, and, I believe, would have sunk us, had we not fortunately been near a bank, which runs pretty far into the lake. By this accident, I thought I had lost my fish, but I found him still fast, and one of the boatmen, by my orders, jumping on the sand-bank, held the boat till I killed him; a fine white trout, of about five pounds. This was a good beginning, and I trusted we should have a noble day's sport, and tacked and trolled, taking great pains for near an hour, but had no rise. I had now ordered the boatman to hurry us to Sir James's *Deer Island*, the melancholy tints of whose fine old yew trees, afford a charming contrast to the other shades around, when I felt a fish strike; the boat was stopped, and I soon

found I had hooked a small trout of about a pound, which we landed, and determined to have no further delay. I took in my rod; but Mr. P. let his flies follow the boat, and had several rises, some he killed, others broke their hold. They were about the size of herrings. It now became very warm, the wind that had annoyed us so much died away, and the whole lake was as smooth as glass.

Landed and strolled over the island, and, having satisfied our curiosity, proceeded, intending, as there was now no appearance of fishing, to load the guns: landed in a few moments on a second island, where we perceived water-fowl to breed in great quantities. As we approached this latter, by one of the bays, a number of small trout rose freely, of which Mr. P. killed about half a score. We now saw plenty of water fowl, such as cormorants, scarts, ducks, sea-gulls, sand-pipers, &c. and I soon got shots. Mr. P. in the mean time, fished, and, pursuing our walk, *Matt*, a sharp servant, who attended me, found several nests of different water-fowl, which I was afterwards sorry he took. As we thus sauntered along by a very lonely spot, a raven, ragged in his plumage, rose quite near me: I shot at him, and plainly saw I had wounded him severely, but he turned round the shoulder of a hill, so that I soon lost sight of him: as I knew he could not attempt to leave the island, I watched my opportunity anxiously, which he perceived, and moved on, much cut. Determined, however, to destroy him, we hallooed, when Mr. Garrard coming up to me, pointed out the place he seemed to light at, and having got near the spot, undiscovered, he rose, and I dropped him.

When we took him up, I think I never, in my life, saw such symptoms of decay, the consequence of extreme old age. All his joints were rotted, and, on examining his plumage, we found, by some quills of the last year, that he had not had even sufficient strength of constitution to drive them to their former size. Every symptom convinced me that, finding his powers unequal to procure him his necessary subsistence, he had discovered this island, where he knew he might feed without much difficulty on the plenty of eggs and young water-fowl.

After firing a few more shots at different birds, we dined, and then rowed across towards an island to the south, and, seeing the trout rising freely, I put my fly-rod together, and killed a dozen or two presently. Mr. P. had likewise been very successful for a young performer.

Our boatman mentioning the quantities of perch which might be taken near Sir James's *Rabbit* island, we now moved towards that place. It was nearly five o'clock, and likely for them to bite, and we had besides brought, fortunately, plenty of worms. As we proceeded, I still kept fishing with *fly*, and occasionally killed a trout, while Mr. P. who had begun to fish with *worm*, killed some small perch: I was attending to him, and I fancy my fly sunk a little, for, in a moment I drew up a perch, a circumstance I never heard of with fly before. This convinced me of their numbers, I made up my perch rod, took off my flies, and, in less than two hours, the number killed by us both, amounted to not less than *ninety*, so eagerly did they bite, but they were of no size.

As we had already plenty of small trout, I wished to venture the *For-hounds* in a little bay or strait. Four brace were accordingly turned off, and I kept trolling, with *dead snap*, for about three quarters of an hour; but, having no success, we took them up, and determined to move on gently home. In our way, passed through the straits of Loch Lomond, a most likely place for pike: still we had no rise, when, in turning gently round a dark bay, I felt a fish strike, and ordered the boat to stop: I perceived that my bait had sunk deep, but not recollecting the additional force the fish acquired thereby, imagined him to be of great magnitude. My tackle was not to be surpassed, I had plenty of water to work him, and no trees or roots to trouble me, but he made the rod, at every exertion, bend to the water. After much trouble, he was secured in the landing net, and proved to be a perch of about seven pounds and a half. I never saw so fine a fed fellow, and what had given him additional powers, and had deceived me, was, as I found, his being hooked by the belly part, which gave him the full strength of his head and tail. Fish, so hooked, have deceived me, and no doubt many brother anglers before.

We had, in the course of the day, seen an *offrey**, or water-eagle, make some noble dashes into the lake, after her prey, and understanding from one of the boatmen, that there was an *eyrie* on a small island, in our voyage home, I ordered them to attempt to get as near the nest as possible, and loaded my gun well, wishing to kill her as a specimen. Notwithstanding all our precaution, however, she rose long before we got near the island, at least we perceived a bird of some kind, for it was too dark to distinguish of what sort, at the distance we lay. These birds are very rare: in all my different excursions, I never heard of any except at Loch Lomond and Loch Morlaix, in Glenmore.

We now landed, highly pleased with our delightful day's sport, at about a quarter after nine, and found a polite card, waiting, from Sir James and Lady Helen, requesting our company to dinner the next day. The landlord at Luss, in our absence, had exerted all his talents, to render every thing as comfortable as possible, and the servants expressed themselves much better pleased with the accommodations for their horses, &c. than they were the preceding evening. Got the portable stilliards to weigh my perch, about which there were various conjectures. Mr. G. guessed he might be under eight pounds, Mr. P. thought he might be more. His precise weight, however, was seven pounds three ounces, or thereabouts. He was very thick about the shoulders, and I regret I did not measure him, as I never saw a fish so well fed.

Returns.

Shot six ducks, three sea-gulls, one scart, one raven.

By trolling—one perch seven pounds—one trout six pounds and a half.

With fly and worm—fifty-seven trout—ninety-four perch.

July 2. — Morning very calm, and likely to turn to a warm day. Having sent the famous perch to Sir James, which, though from its size, a great curiosity to us, was no rarity here. We got into our boat about ten o'clock, and soon afterwards landed, in order to explore the beauties of the island of *Inchstevanock*. With this place Mr. Garrard was so delighted, that we, at

* See Pennant's Zoology.

his request, assented to leave him there to draw, and taking the boat to *Rosedoe*, promised to send it back to Luss, to procure him some refreshment, intending, ourselves, to walk home in the evening, a very pleasant distance, of about two miles, and the finest road I know, running along the beach the whole way.

Landed at *Rosedoe*, and were met by the gentlemen on the lawn, who gave us the additional satisfaction to show us the many improvements made, and, to explain others projected, in order to add to the beauty of this enchanting spot.

The house, from its outside, we perceived, was a spacious, modern erection; but I wished to defer my attention to it till we returned to dinner. The gentlemen sauntered about with us, and walking along, we admired the fine plantations and rising forests of firs, running up to the very tops of the heights, fantastically enough, from the form the mountains assume; and their bases covered with no inconsiderable quantity of oaks, some of which are *more* than handsome trees. Immediately scattered over the lawn, I could not help observing some truly noble trees; I think sycamores and oaks. Dr. Johnson, I understood, had been on a visit here; but, perhaps, this growth of timber escaped him, or we must suspect him, in this instance, of want of candour. Not that I mean to be so absurd as to say, that these Alpine countries, be they under Hambleton in Yorkshire, on the verge of the Cumberland Lakes, or in the Highlands, can, from the nature of their soil, produce such magnificent trees as the Cowthroe oak; but, to assert that there is *no* appearance of wood to give warmth of colouring to the views, or to protect the inhabitants in bad weather, is certainly hyperbole, and can only be believed by those who are so ignorant as to imagine that Churchill's Prophecy of Famine is really matter of fact. To attempt to convince such people, and there are many of them still to be found, is as impossible as it is unnecessary.

The dressing bell now rang, and we hastened to pay our compliments to Lady Helen and the other ladies; and were shown the house, a most excellent suite of well-proportioned rooms, each commanding the most delightful views, and perfectly well sheltered from the storms to which such countries

must be subject. Dinner was announced, and amongst other excellent dishes, our perch made its appearance: it was broiled, and we thought we never ate a finer fish. After the bottle had passed, as we conceived very freely, we were disposed to return home, but our hospitable friend, Sir James, would not allow us to stir till he had produced the *landlord's bottle*, a custom peculiar to the north, where luxury has not yet blunted hospitality. Speaking of *Powens*, a species of fish, said to be peculiar to Loch Lomond, Sir James promised, that if I would break my journey, by stopping a day with him, on my return in autumn, he would certainly make his fishermen procure me some, which was not to be done at this season. To this, having likewise engaged to visit several other friends, in Renfrewshire, on my return, I readily assented.

The evening was enchanting, and having drank tea with the ladies, after the usual compliments, we walked home, not without admiring some fresh beauty at every turn of the road. Breaking out of a wood, where we had been looking at a very thriving oak, I perceived, near the road side, two very elegant female figures, rising, as it were, from the lake; who appeared uncommonly well dressed—I was pretty confident they were not inhabitants, and moving forward, had nearly offered my hand to one of them, in order to assist her to cross a brook, not so destitute of water, but it was likely to wet a delicate lady's foot, when a momentary impulse checked me, and, divided between exclamation and propriety, I remained, as is usual in such cases, motionless. The lady, I plainly saw, smiled, and I thought she perceived in me a disposition to do the same.

P. struck with so much feminine beauty, where so little was to be expected, kept whispering and asking who those ladies were; and dropping behind them a little, was all in raptures; but, it was not likely that I should be able to resolve his inconsiderate questions. The ladies were excellent walkers, and, as we approached the inn, I saw my servant coming hastily forward, who soon informed me of what I so much wished to know. The two ladies, I learned, were the Duchess of G—— and Lady Mary G——, who were on a tour through the Highlands; and, as we occupied the whole

inn, the landlord had nearly been the cause of their proceeding to Tarbat. The duchess, to whom I had the honour of being known, on hearing that by us the house was engaged, very judiciously concluded, that no inconvenience we could feel would be considered otherwise than as a luxury to accommodate her; I now, therefore, hastened to pay my compliments, having learned by the way that the ladies were *incog.* and had not, on that account, paid any visits.

In the course of the evening I found that my plan of travelling early, and going to Tarbat, would interfere with her Grace, in a house barely capable of receiving one family, and in which our landlord gave us very indifferent hopes of accommodation. I, therefore, devoted the next day to crossing the lake, and fishing for pike under Ben Lomond, which we declined ascending on this account; and from thence meant to troll and fish with the fox-hounds, where any bays became favourable.

Mr. Gerrard intended taking sketches up and down the lake, from what is called the *Point of Firkin*—meanwhile the carriages were ordered to proceed to Tarbat, to order beds, &c. and leaving the rest of his drawings for the ladies' inspection, which they undertook to leave at Tarbat, I had the honour to wish them a pleasant excursion.

July 3.—Morning rather sharp, rose before four, and Mr. P. and I went into our boat in front of the inn, where I fortunately hooked and killed the best trout I had seen, which afforded us excellent sport. I think I never before handled such a fish: it appeared to us, who were pretty well accustomed to judge, from the experiments we had made the day before, to weigh nearly seven pounds. I immediately landed my servant, and dispatched him with my compliments to the ladies, requesting their acceptance of it, and afterwards found he had delivered it safe.

We now crossed this water, and made all the expedition we could, in order to troll for jack, in a famous lake, near a garrison, called *Inversnaid*.

Approaching the shore, we saw a few small trout; but the day becoming intensely warm made it no ways favourable for fishing or even walking; however, not to be entirely idle, we landed, and got to a small lake full of

weeds, amongst which we perceived that very bold aquatic plant, the *waterlily*.

We had little hopes of sport, when, walking on the edges of this small sheet of water, I perceived two figures rising from the roots of an aged oak, and moving towards us: their dress was somewhat extraordinary, and not very unlike that which Robinson Crusoe is supposed to have worn.

They introduced themselves to us in a plain, but perfectly genteel manner, such as would have done honour to the most finished courtier; and convinced me that it is not an imperious, assuming, distant air that demands respect; but that simplicity of manners and decent conduct mark the perfect gentleman, in whatever station he may be found.

The strangers, I soon understood by their conversation, though in this garb, were officers attending garrison. A ridiculous tax certainly on the service, and which ought to be abolished, the causes, that at first rendered it necessary, namely, to subdue the spirit of these northern mountaineers, being long since removed.

Figure to yourself a garrison, consisting of a subaltern, a serjeant, and a handful of men, immured in a recess, at the base of Ben Lomond, destitute of all society, particularly in winter, when even the favour of a visit, from a brother officer, is too great to ask, and, on account of the long-continued snows, would be impossible to grant: when, by accident, the officer happens to be a very keen sportsman, he may amuse himself during the summer and autumnal months, well enough; but, if not of a studious turn, what is to become of him in winter? But should it be the lot, as it sometimes must, of an officer, not particularly partial to sporting or reading, though, in every respect, a very excellent man, what a dreadful life he must lead!

The gentleman, seeing the rods, judged our errand; and offered us the use of a small boat they had at anchor in a creek. We were determined to accept this civility, and, having adjusted my tackle, I trolled with one of them in the most likely place, but to no purpose. There was every appearance of plenty of pike; but, I was given to understand, that the soldiers had killed many from this lake with *trimmers*; consequently, I concluded, that, if the day had been favourable for trolling, we should have found our

expectations had been raised, not from the quantity that remained, but from the numbers that had been taken.

Seeing no prospect of success, we landed at the spot where the other officer and Mr. P. were reposing, and, after taking a little cold meat, and some refreshing shrub, we returned to our boat, attended by these strangers, to whom we expressed our sense of their civilities, and then set sail, with a fair wind, round the eastern base of Ben Lomond, for the Point of Firkin.

Ben Lomond has been frequently measured, and its dimensions are well known; it is, therefore, unnecessary here to enter into a description: it assumes a noble, conical shape; and it was now clear to the very top, which rarely happens.

We perceived, as we coasted along, some men, whom we had heard shooting; and hallooing to them, and approaching nearer the shore, found they were two fox-hunters. They had just killed, as they informed us, a bitch-fox and some cubs, and had earthed a wild-cat, which, had there been any hopes of destroying, we should readily have joined in making the attempt; but, they assured us, they had sufficiently tried, and found it impracticable.

English sportsmen must not conceive, that these men are mounted even on Highland *shelties*, or that they are furnished with caps, whips, horns, and thirty couple of hounds. They are merely on foot, dressed in Scotch bonnets, with *brogues*, by way of shoes, the rest as they can. They carry a very awkward gun, loaded with swan-shot, have a brace of half-starved mongrel greyhounds, four or five couple of still worse fed hounds, called here *slow*-hounds, in opposition to the *greyhound*, and a couple or more, of lame, but savage, bandy-legged *terriers*. One half, at least, of these quadrupeds are eaten up with the *mange*, of which they must cure themselves, as little attention is paid to them.

We threw our brother sportsmen half-a-crown to drink the joys of a *tallyho*! but doubted much, whether they clearly comprehended the *cause* of our bounty, though there could be little doubt, but that they tasted the *effects* of it. We now hurried to the opposite bay, and found that we were

passing over the deepest part of the lake, asserted by some writers to be unfathomable, the truth of which I very much doubt, particularly as other authorities have ascertained its exact depth.

We soon reached the opposite shore, gratified at every instant with the different views obtained up and down the lake, as our bark kept scudding before the wind. Mr. Gerrard saw us very distinctly, but we could not see him, until we perceived his handkerchief waving on the height above. As the breeze favoured our fishing, and there was an excellent bason below where Mr. Gerrard was drawing, we baited six fox-hounds, and they went off with an easy sail down wind as usual.

We now trolled, and killed three trout, of no great size, the best about a pound and a half. They were blacker than any I had killed in this lake, but equally well fed as the rest. After tacking and trolling, with great pains, for full two hours, we came near Mr. Gerrard, hailed him, and found he had just finished, and that the servants and horses were waiting a little farther off. In consequence of this, we determined to go down wind, and see what success the hounds had had, and to take them up, and make what dispatch we could to Tarbat, as I naturally conceived we should be able to amuse ourselves, by taking a view of Loch Long, &c. or by fishing Loch Lomond above, or below, the inn, to the full as likely for sport as where we were.

We were soon down wind; indeed, we went faster than I wished with such a boat, no ballast, and sad watermen, and it blew now most furiously in the main, though it was not, by any means, dangerous in the bay.

We found five of the hounds all unbaited and no fish, the other we supposed had edged off more into the main; in short, we heard no more of it.

Rewarded our thankful boatman, and ascended what appeared to be a good steep bank above. Scrambled over some great pieces of rock, which, even near hand, appeared only like stones, so much does the magnificence and grandeur of all the surrounding objects keep their proportion, that, even the largest lose their magnitude, when compared with the associated scenery that composes the whole of this unparalleled country.

In ascending this apparent bank the same causes operated; I found it a good pull, and, from the thickness of the underwood, hidden masses of stones, &c. it was no easy task, trifling as it at first might seem. Mr. P. not an extraordinary good walker, was a long time before he had made the summit, which however he gained, just when, tired with waiting for him, I was going to descend. He was pretty well exhausted, and execrated the Highland hills, not considering that, from a southern education, spent chiefly in luxury, his youthful nerves, instead of being strengthened, had become more relaxed and effeminate.

It was necessary to remain a little, while Mr. P. recovered, and this time was not lost, for Mr. Gerrard, having observed a noble situation from the Point of Firkin, wished me to return, to admire the infinite variety and grandeur of the different views up and down the lake.

The isles that decorate this expanse of water are numerous: I think there are not less than twenty-eight, finely disposed, and very distinct. Some rise with gentle and regular curvatures above the surface, covered with verdant turf, and self-planted with various trees. Others are chiefly whitish rock, and some lie flat, and are totally naked. Such is Sir James Colquhoun's Rabbit Island.

From this point of view, I think, we discovered more islands than I had observed before, and a greater sweep of the lake, said to be twelve miles across to the Duke of Montrose's, which lies to the eastward. But, however fine it might be, we did not admit it to be so good a subject for the pencil as the charming prospect off Inchmerin.

After feasting our eyes sufficiently with this view, we directed our attention to the one opposite. The lake here takes a gentle turn, and washes the base of the mighty Ben Lomond, enveloped in clouds.

From Lomond's lake th' enormous mountain spreads,
And, bending eastward, rears a thousand heads.

A scene, totally different from that we had been pleased with some hours before, now unfolded itself: from this situation, up to Tarbat, the lake becomes

gradually more contracted, and assumes the appearance of an extensive, noble river, the banks of which are finely wooded, and interspersed with corn-fields.

The storm now increased very fast, and we plainly perceived, from this lofty eminence, a vessel, much larger than the one we had left, obliged to run into shore, which made us anxious for the safety of our late attendants. Accordingly Mr. P. having recovered from his fatigue, we trotted on briskly, not at all satiated with a succession of similar scenery, and arrived at Tarbat.

It has always been a rule with me, to defer giving my opinion of an inn till I have examined the most useful part, I mean the *inside*. The rooms here were small indeed, but they were clean, and we wanted nothing more: better linen I never saw, and every attention was shown us that the most finical traveller could wish for.

Having told the servant to get what the house afforded for supper, and it being only a little turned of six o'clock, we again strolled out. Mr. Gerard took the road for *Inverary*, in order to see Loch Long. Mr. P. and myself, not cloyed with our day's sport, enquired where a boat could be procured, in which we might troll on the edge of the lake, in some safe harbour. We were soon shown a boatman's house, the master of which was at a *whiskey shop*, they said, hard by. I quickly, therefore, adjusted my tackle, for we found it inconvenient to troll with two rods, as the snaps were continually catching each other; and, having taken out my hooks, and fastened on my bait, the proprietor of the boat made his appearance. I thought him *drunk*, but he walked pretty steadily, and, having got on board his vessel, which lay in a rivulet that ran into the lake, I followed him, and, jumping in, alighted on some faggots or hurdles, and found myself pretty handsomely splashed with the water, which they covered at the bottom of the boat. Mr. P. followed more cautiously.

I was now adjusting my famous rod, and finding the boatman, a man apparently turned of seventy, very officious and troublesome, and jumping about like a school-boy, I cautioned him to take care, and not come near

the rod, and desired Mr. P. to attend to him, for there remained no doubt of his inebriety. In spite of all my admonitions, and Mr. P.'s vigilance, the old gentleman, nevertheless, jumped upon the fourth piece of the rod, and broke it. I think I was never so much mortified. Without being a warm man, it would have been excusable to have thrown him overboard, and have given him a good ducking. Mr. P. was more out of humour, if possible, than myself: we soon, however, softened each other, and, looking at the boatman, and his vessel very much resembling a condemned west-country barge, and the furious tempest that blew on the lake, readily acknowledged the accident an intervention of Providence, and left the old gentleman not a little disappointed at the loss of the *siller** he had expected, and of the different libations it would have afforded him of his favourite whiskey†.

We packed up the broken, favourite rod, and moved on, rather disconsolate at the loss it would occasion, till we got to Raits. Passing by the boatman's house, two matrons came and asked the cause of our sudden return; which having explained, and feeling themselves also baffled in their expectations, they met our old gentleman, and seemed in most excellent humour to make him pass a very pleasant evening.

We now got to our inn, and, enquiring what was intended for supper, the landlady came up stairs and delivered me a letter, together with the sketches lent at Luss to the noble travellers.

She produced some trout; I thought ours as fine, and none could be fresher; but, like a true Highland landlady, she insisted that hers were the best. The husband, who was, like our friend the boatman, more than heated with the darling liquor of the country, attempted to join in the contest, and, as is often the case, opposed his wife's arguments without knowing why, and a charming clamour there was. I recommended them to be moderate, and desired both fish might be produced. Hers were undoubtedly fresh and good, but, fortunately for us, they proved to be most ex-

* Money.

† A spirituous liquor, extracted from oats.

cellent *whitings* from Loch Long, instead of trout just taken, as she affirmed, from Loch Lomond. I at last, however, persuaded them into good humour, and, following Mr. Gerrard's footsteps, met him returning, having taken a general outline of Loch Long and its Alpine protectors, which he proposed to finish the next day.

We sat down to a plain, but really neat, board: I eat the whittings, and the gentlemen did honour to the trout: our wine was tolerable; London porter delicious; and, on visiting our beds, we found them very comfortable indeed.

July 4.—Day sultry. I intended to have staid part of the day, and had prepared matters for fishing Loch Long; but, understanding that the Duchess and Lady Mary meant to return, and could not be accommodated if we remained at the inn, we proceeded for Glen Falloch, still following the much admired Loch Lomond. The road was wonderfully steep, which a little alarmed us, as my shaft-horse, which had been chiefly used as a leader to *Active*, by no means relished the great weight of the gig upon the breeching, but he came to before we got to Cree in La Roche, and not a better gig-horse could be drove: a proof how much may be done by docility and attention, even with brutes. As an instance, I will only mention one circumstance. In passing a Highland gate, some glaring stone, or other shining substance, made him rather swerve, by which means he forced the wheel between the wall and the gate-post. Having him well in hand, I stopt him short, and there he quietly remained till we had cleared the carriage, and were reinstated. Few horses would have been so tractable.

Pursuing the road about six miles from Tarbat, the eye is gratified with a very charming view down the lake; Mr. Gerrard having staid behind to finish his sketch of Loch Long; in order to strike his attention, I raised a pyramid of stones, and left marks to catch his eye, and a little card, desiring him to stop and admire the view.

Arrived at *Glen Falloch*; inn very bad; here we took leave, with regret, of our delightful companion, Loch Lomond; and, passing through a pleasant vale, the pasturage incomparable, as it had been for many miles, we pro-

ceeded for Cree in La Roche, over the most horrid country imaginable, and a still worse road. A few straggling fir-trees, from their scarcity and stunted appearance, gave a stronger idea of the wretched poverty of this country than the total want of them would have done.

At Cree in *La Roche* we dined, or rather attempted it; and Mr. Gerrard, from the meanness of the inn, had really rode past it, but, conceiving this very possible to happen, I hailed him, having kept a sharp look out for that purpose. He was all astonishment; but, uncomfortable as the house was, we found good eggs, fresh barley bannocks, and tolerable porter, together with some smoked salmon, which *Bruce* dressed; and, on the whole, we did as well as we could; drank some good brandy and water, and I, getting my tackle ready, fell to fishing, in the river *Dochart*, which runs below Cree in *La Roche*, while the horses were baiting after this severe stage.

The day was calm, I raised some fine trout, killed about ten or a dozen pretty tolerable fish, and, really expecting very good sport, as I had heard some years ago, or had conceived that this river abounds in trout, I sent back, and ordered the carriage and horses to be detained an hour longer; I had scarcely sent the message, when the fish seemed to rise very tardily, and in two hours I had no farther success, though I tried every fly I had, and also trolled with a minnow.

We waited anxiously for the carriage, which, at length, appeared; but we found, when we attempted to walk up to it, that we were surrounded by a morass, and that there was no safe road to return by, but the one by which we came, a distance of about two miles. Not being very desirous to do this, we at length found a place, where, with some caution and difficulty, we got across, and proceeded, following the river, which, at about two miles lower down, forms a pretty lake, called Lake *Dochart*. Here stand the ruins of a castle, called also Castle *Dochart*, the property of a Mr. Campbell of *Auch Lom*, whose house we soon came in sight of, very agreeably situated at the foot of some wild hills. The vale is tolerably fruitful and well cultivated; some well-imagined and flourishing plantations promise, likewise, when they grow up, to make this a pleasant residence.

Though I have remarked, that the Highland roads, in general, are tolerably good, and do honour to the projectors, I must mention this stage as an exception. The water courses are made, in the most extraordinary manner, like ditches of about two feet deep and two broad, no trap for *springs* could be better conducted; I had taken every precaution human nature could devise, to prevent the inconveniency I had suffered from fore springs, in my former expeditions, by taking them off; never conceiving that the hind ones, which had now gone above three thousand miles, totally unimpaired, could suffer; but I was mistaken. One of them, with a loud crash, gave way, and we were obliged to walk the remainder of the stage, to save the other. The road, in other respects, I mean for cavalry, is not bad.

We entered Killin about nine o'clock, passing over a bridge, from whence we saw, by the faint glimmerings of the moon, some singularly-broken rocks, over which the water breaking, had a very extraordinary and pleasing effect.

KILLIN.—Though the inn at Cree in La Roche is bad, the traveller is here amply recompensed, I never saw a better inn than that at Killin; Lord Breadalbane, much to his credit, having taken great pains to make it very commodious. The landlord I found had been a neighbour of mine; a lively, honest Yorkshireman, who had frequently hunted with my hounds, and knew me perfectly well, as did also his wife, a neat active woman, who soon got us every thing we could wish for. Her husband, however, thought it absolutely necessary to deafen my ears with repeated *tallyhoes*, which I could very easily have dispensed with; for, how pleasantly soever they may have sounded at hunts, when on Ascham bog, they had no great music in them at Killin.

At length, becoming more reasonable, we consulted with him how we should readjust the carriage. He said we might easily procure a boat, and go down by water to *Taymouth*; a plan that exactly corresponded with our most sanguine wishes; for, by this means, Mr. P. and myself could fish, and Mr. Gerrard draw; and, by the baggage being stowed in the boat, the springs of the carriage would be most completely eased: at Kenmore too, there was said to be the most ingenious whitesmith in the country, which appear-

ed natural and necessary for such an establishment, as I knew Lord Braedalbane's to be. As I had the honour to be a little known to this nobleman, on whose property we now were, I took the liberty to request Mr. Campbell, his lordship's superintendant, to breakfast with me the next morning, and received a polite answer, that he would wait on me; and, the supper being served, after a few refreshing glasses, we retired to rest.

Head of Loch Tay, July 5.—Day delightful. Having engaged our boatman, and prepared every thing necessary for sailing down the charming Loch Tay, we took a short walk, before breakfast, to view the country around, and again gratified our curiosity, in examining the appearance of the broken rocks, which had made such an impression on us on entering the town the night before. The bridge itself is very well, but the rapid Lyon, dashing over these obstructions, has a wonderful effect.

No situation, we thought, could be more desirable for the seat of a great man than Killin, and here we are told the Braedalbane family had once thoughts of residing; the idea, was, however, on some account dropped, but, what were the motives for giving the preference to Taymouth, I have yet to discover. The boatman who attended us, professing himself a capital fisher, had undertaken to get baits for trolling, but, with great difficulty, could only procure five, and we were, of course, obliged to be content with these, expecting that Mr. Parkhurst, who meant to fish with fly, would kill, by accident, some fish small enough for trolling, should I have the good fortune to use those already procured. The great prospect of the quantity of fish, pike, as well as prodigious trout, likely to be caught here, being strongly represented to me by my boatman, roused my perseverance, and I took my rod, hoping to kill at least as many as *he* had done; but, the morning was so intensely warm I could scarce get a rise in five minutes, I however killed a brace.

Came in keen for breakfast, and found in the house Mr. Campbell, who had done me the honour of a visit, and insisted on my making use of his yacht, which proved to be a very handsome one: he also gave me a letter to Lord Braedalbane's steward at Taymouth.

We found it delightful sailing down this enchanting water, and I hoped

to kill some pike, the boatman still pretending they were in plenty at the head of the lake we were passing; but I soon found he could romance. In the course of two miles sailing, however, hooked a trout of about a couple of pounds, which I killed, and afterwards two more, weighing about four pounds each.

The breeze now increased; Mr. P. had not had one rise; but, on steering round a bank, which projected into the lake, he hooked a fish at almost every instant, killed several, and at length secured one which required all our assistance to land, and which might weigh about five pounds. I now began to hope for good sport; my bait was so large, that I thought none but a trout or salmon would attempt it, for no other fish, we were told, were to be found in this part of the lake. Mr. P. whose flies I had changed, putting on my favourite black fly, caught several good fish, and I hooked one which soon convinced me he meant to try the strength of my tackle. We were obliged to bring to, and I landed him with great difficulty, being but slightly hooked: he was a noble fellow, and we estimated him at nine pounds. I afterwards had very good sport with two large trout, not quite so big as this; and, trolling with a bait of near half a pound, expected to kill a trout of fifteen pounds at least, the boatman solemnly affirming, that such were frequently caught. However, I landed without another rise; but such a weight of fine fish I never saw taken in one day; and the boatman, whom I found to be Lord Braedalbane's fisherman, and from using his nets constantly might be supposed to know the nature and size of the fish in this lake, declared that there never had been so many, or so fine, taken in it in any day before.

The views up and down the lake, as we passed, were very beautiful; and we had the additional pleasure to see the carriage and servants always in view, hanging, as it were, above us, and constantly within call, had we either found any inconvenience in the vessel, from the wind being too boisterous, of which, however, we had little apprehension, or had there been a dead calm, which we at first feared; but as we advanced, a very refresh-

ing breeze came from *Ben More*, and, gently swelling our canvass, we glided on exactly at the rate which suited us for trolling.

The hanging banks above us, we were told, were not destitute of *roe-bucks*, several being carefully preserved by Lord Braedalbanc. My companions hoped to see some, which I knew was not very likely, as they would be able to see us long before we could discover them: however, as I had not undeceived them, they looked as anxiously, as I myself did some years since, on every wild spot we passed. At last, quite wearied out, they gave up the search.

After sailing eight miles, we anchored; went to dinner, and regaled ourselves very pleasantly; and a bottle of rum, made into milk-punch, was given to our attendants, who would easily have been prevailed on to have dispatched more, if we had had it to offer: they also showed no dislike to some good bottled porter.

The view from this place, having the great hill of Lawrs down the water, is as fine as that up the lake, which terminates with the beautifully-shaped mountain, *Ben More*. Never was a day more favourable to our wishes than this.

Landed, and came to the inn at KENMORE.

Our boatman being called in, we wished to know what would satisfy him, and, at the same time, meant to give a couple of shillings to a man he had brought with him, without any order from us; and both of them, as I have observed, had fared very well on board. Unwilling to give what might not be thought adequate, I consulted the landlord, whose opinion was, that three shillings for the boatmen, as they had been found in provisions, would be very handsome, and two to take him back, and that I might give the attendant what I pleased.

On considering that we had hired two men at Loch Lomond, on their own terms, at *eighteen-pence* a-day each, during our stay there, though we had given them four shillings, with their victuals; it appeared to me, as the wages of this part of the country were at six-pence a day, that five shil-

lings to the boatman, allowing him to give his companion what he thought proper, would be at least sufficient; but, unwilling to disappoint even his most sordid expectations, I gave him what silver I had, which was nine shillings and six-pence; when, to my no small mortification, he was dissatisfied, and behaved very unhandsomely. I therefore recommend it to gentlemen to make a previous agreement with every countryman whose services they may want, but in particular with a Highlander: many of them have but one idea, which is, that an Englishman is a walking mint, and they are never satisfied, should you give, as I have often done, four times as much as the man would have had from an inhabitant for executing the same business. He will still be discontented, and say he expected double the money he received. I am sorry to say that I have found this disposition too general; and, I must confess, I have been so much mortified by their want of generosity, that I have employed them as seldom as possible. In England this unsatisfied temper is undoubtedly to be met with, but it is by no means so general. A man whom I employ to walk for hounds, and other articles I may want, has gone a journey of fifty-seven miles in one day, and his constant pay is three shillings and six-pence a day only, to find himself in every thing. A Highlander would think himself well paid with less from an inhabitant, but would not be contented with more than double from a stranger. They really fancy no person understands the value of money but themselves.

July 6.—TAYMOUTH. This place, from my first visiting it, which I did when I was at college in this country, had made such an impression on me, that whenever I thought of any thing extremely pleasant, Taymouth constantly presented itself to me. It now appeared equally enchanting, the weather and every other circumstance conspiring to render it so; and, having received the most unbounded civilities from Mrs. Campbell, in the absence of the noble owner, with offers of a carriage to convey me, and my party, along the extensive, well-imagined, and still better kept, plantations, we saw Taymouth, from these attentions, to every advantage.

Unwilling to lose a moment's time, as Mr. Gerrard intended to take a view of this charming place, we repaired to the Fort, ordering a cold dinner to be sent to us from the inn; for we meant to dine in one of the bastions, which had been fitted up as a banqueting house.

There certainly never was a more interesting assemblage of all the beauties of Alpine scenery, and the most finely-cultivated grazing farms associated, than is exhibited at one point of view from this heavenly eminence.

The features are so various, so noble, and so majestic, that they surpass the art of the painter. They cannot be done justice to within the compass of even a large picture, and must fall very short in any engraving, on so small a scale as the nature of this work requires. All that could be done, has, in my opinion, been executed by Messrs. Gerrard and Medland. The park is happily broken by elegant groups of deer of different colours, and by herds of judiciously-chosen, noble, beautifully-coloured, and well-shaped cattle*, gratifying the eye and replenishing the dairy, which are lost on paper, though seen faintly, from this situation, by the traveller.

To the west, the eye following the park, is obliged to stop and admire the very elegant subordinate village of Kenmore, and the bridge, over which is seen the noble Loch Tay, its banks covered with wood and corn-fields. Though these are indistinctly viewed, the two excellent roads, leading to Killin, meandering on each side of the lake. At the end of this noble sheet of water, whose termination is happily interrupted by the bold breast of a hill pushing itself into the lake, and breaking the lines, is seen very faintly Ben More, and, following the northern shore, arises the hill of Lawrs. Looking across the park, and appearing to ascend from the river, lost in foliage, rises, in variegated splendour, the smiling hill of Drummond, and above

* Lord Braedalbane has introduced a breed of the *Tees side*, or *Yorkshire* cows, brought from the vicinity of Thornville, where they are of immense size. My predecessor paid great attention to them, and very superiorly fine they were. I sold two of the stock, a cow, too old for breeding, and a sedge, to a butcher of Manchester, for fifty guineas. The cow, by which he made his profit, weighed ninety-eight stone, Manchester weight, sixteen pound to the stone, exclusive of hide, head, feet, and tallow—a beautiful and wonderful animal she was.



it, claiming pre-eminence over all surrounding objects, is seen the cloud-capt Shehellion.

It was now past ten o'clock, and Mr. G. and myself got into the *cabriolet*, politely allotted us, Mr. P. being desirous of resting, and drove a beautiful pye-ball, well accustomed to the road, gently down the walks.

Our first object to admire was a weeping birch, which I recollected to have seen when here before. This, I understood from the servant who attended us, was still in great vigour: we, therefore, stepped out of our little, easy carriage, and were much struck, not only with its size, but with the uncommon elegance of its limbs and branches, sweeping in, and luxuriantly following the wanton air. Mr. G. being desirous to make a slight study of this tree, we returned to the spot, where we had left the carriage; but found it gone, and, from the haste of the footman, plainly saw that our quiet, steady pye-ball had run away. We followed, and, soon overtaking him, found he had neither hurt himself nor the carriage; but Mr. Gerrard, by this means, unfortunately lost his drawing-board and colour-box, which cost some trouble to recover: having got them, however, he soon finished the outline of the tree, while Mr. P. and myself examined the house, gardens, &c.

Taymouth lies in a vale, scarce a mile broad, very fertile, and bounded on each side by mountains finely planted. Those on the south are covered with trees, or with corn-fields, far up their sides. The hills on the north are planted with pines and other trees, and vastly steep, and have a very Alpine look; much resembling, as Mr. Pennant observes, the great slope, opposite the *Grande Chartreuse* in *Dauphiné*. His lordship's policy* surrounds the house, which stands in the park, and is one of the few in which fallow-deer are seen.

The grounds are in remarkable fine order, having with great perseverance been cleared of the large stones with which it abounded. The *Berceau* walk, composed of great trees, forming a fine Gothic arch, is very magni-

* This word here signifies improvements, or demesne: when used by a merchant or tradesman, it means their warehouses, shops, and the like. PENNANT'S SCOTCH TOUR.

ficient. The walk on the bank of the *Tay* is fifty feet wide, and two thousand two hundred yards long; but, when completed, will extend nearly twice that length, namely, as far as the junction of the *Tay* and the *Lyon*. The first runs on the side of the walk with great rapidity, is clear, but not colourless, for its pellucidness is like that of brown crystal; as is the case with most of the rivers of Scotland, which receive their tinge from the bogs. The *Tay* has here a wooden bridge, two hundred feet long, leading to the seat from whence is seen the glorious prospect before mentioned.

The house is a large castle modernised. The most remarkable part of its furniture is the works of the famous Jamieson, the *Scotch Vandyke*, an élève of this family. That singular performance of his, the genealogical picture, is still in good preservation. It represents the descent of the Argyle family, of which that of Braedalbane is a branch, has a great many portraits, and is thus inscribed: *The geneologie of the house of Glenorquhie. Quhair-of is descendit sundrie nobil and worthie houses. Jamieson faciebat, 1635.* The library contains, some old curious, books; but we had no opportunity to examine them.

We now rejoined Mr. Gerrard, who, pretty well exhausted, wished for dinner; which, being ready dressed, was soon served. It was a plain, simple repast; but, our appetites being sharpened by wholesome air and regular exercise, we really enjoyed it more than the greatest dainties. We had some excellent sallad, and the very best melons, in point of flavour, we all agreed, we had ever tasted; a present from Mrs. C——, the noble owner's mother.

Drank the health of the Braedalbane family, under a discharge of cannon, and the astonishing echoes it occasioned, in the opposite hills, were reverberated by the neighbouring ones in a most pleasing, but awful manner.

After dinner, wishing to colour in a noble beech, we had passed, not unobserved, though at a little distance from us, in our ascent to the Fort, we had some time to spare, and quickly moved towards it.

When we were near enough to examine its magnitude, we were very much struck with it: I never saw a nobler. The ramifications of these

trees exceed, in my opinion, all others, from the unexpected twists and forms they assume. This tree, so extraordinary from its size, was not less so from the advantages it had of form and situation, and I lamented that we were not prepared to measure it. Mr. Gerrard having now completely executed his plan, in which the day had favoured us to the last, we returned to the inn, where every thing was better prepared for us than the first night. Supped comfortably on one of the very large trout killed the day before, whose colour was as extraordinary, when taken out of the water, as the flesh was delicately red and excellently tasted.

July 7.—Morning cool and pleasant. Breakfasted early, in order to proceed on our journey, after examining the carriage, which we found completely mended; but were obliged to wait a little for Mr. Gerrard, who had trotted on briskly to see a beautiful hermitage, about two miles distant, belonging to Lord Braedalbane. As I knew I should see it often, in the course of my travelling through this country, I rather wished to defer my curiosity till I should have more leisure thoroughly to examine it, and the many other beauties of this elegant residence, particularly a druidical temple above the house, and not far from the Fort.

Mr. Gerrard soon returned, and produced a slight sketch, sufficient to bring to my remembrance what had once pleased me so much; and, every thing being now ready for our departure, we drove through the park, taking the road, which follows the Lyon, to Invar, where we intended to pass the evening, and had the precaution to take some of the finest fish with us, ready dressed, and other refreshments, meaning to dine at the Duke of Athol's Hermitage, on this side of Dunkeld, and adjacent to the road.

The views, in general, on this road, are as beautiful as various: the road itself is a pretty good one, but might be improved, being full of large *cobbles*, and, near Dunkeld, rather sandy.

Arrived at the gate leading to the hermitage; we requested to be admitted: the gardener, who had attended us, at first pretended to make some difficulty: he said, that he had positive orders not to show the cascade with-

out leave from his master, the obtaining of which would have lost some time, and much impeded our schemes. Though I thought it singular that an order should be given to prevent travellers from seeing an object clearly meant for public inspection, and which, being totally detached from the mansion, could by no means incommode the owner. I adopted the usual recipe, and found means to convince our Cerberus of the inconsistency and impossibility of such an order having originated with his master.

He took great pains to direct our attention to several very inelegant beds of pinks, and other flowers, which, no doubt, to a mountaineer, were great curiosities, but to us none. We therefore waved his offers of showing us any more, being desirous to see the *cascade*, unadorned, as we hoped, and in its natural form; and at length prevailed upon him, not a little mortified at our want of curiosity, to conduct us to the foot of the falls.

Having satisfied ourselves with admiring this fine piece of water, we ascended, and dined below the hermitage, on the cold collation we had brought from Kenmore.

On the grounds that surrounded us, we saw several woods, and parts of woods, of a singularly picturesque appearance, their green foliage beautifully heightened by a mixture of russet, which we found was occasioned by some particular trees having their leaves poisoned by a species of locusts, which had been feeding on them.

The ^{the} ~~Argyle~~ hermitage is, in my opinion, much too elegant, and takes from the beauty of the waterfall. The room is highly finished, and adorned with a fine transparent painting of Ossian, which, in any other place, I should admire, but here it is quite out of character. The residence of an anchorite should undoubtedly be plain and simple, and had this building resembled that in Lord Braedalbane's park, it would, in my opinion, have infinitely better answered its destination than at present.

INVAR.—On approaching the inn, which I recollected from the servants, I immediately discovered the mistake I had constantly laboured under, in taking this place for Dunkeld. Invar is only divided from the village of

Dunkeld by the river Tay, over which there is a ferry, and, consequently, a traveller may easily conceive them to be the same town.

The outside of this inn has a comfortable appearance enough. The landlord received us very consequentially, but civilly, and informed us, that, there being a meeting of surgeons in the house, to examine and decide on a particular case, he feared we should be incommoded, but he would use his endeavours to make things as agreeable as possible; and, to do him justice, he kept his word.

We went to bed, as usual, early; but our ears were, for a long time, stunned by the noisy mirth of this scientific body, without being able to enjoy their jokes. At length, either we became more sleepy, or they less noisy; it is of little consequence which, for we heard no more of them afterwards.

July 8.—The servants, who, it seems, had not enjoyed more rest than ourselves, were *uncommonly assiduous*, and the morning foreboding a very warm day, and knowing our intended route to Blair would produce some heavenly views, we quitted Invar, after taking a comfortable, solid breakfast, to enable us to endure the day's fatigue, not intending to dine till late.

We soon came to the ferry, but were prevented from crossing for some time, by a number of wild-looking horses, and their owners, little less wild than themselves, who were waiting there for a passage. The servants claimed the right they supposed we had of crossing first, and made a considerable *hubbub*; but as it appeared to me, that, in crossing a public ferry, no other precedence could be claimed than priority of application, or, as it is usually styled, 'first come first served,' I desired them to desist, and highly amused myself with seeing the embarkation.

The men pulled and hauled in their horses, accoutred, in general, not with bridles, but *branks**, which, when the rider or conductor wishes to stop his steed, he pulls, and, consequently, pinches the animal by the nose. This effect happening, I presume, to several of the *shelties* at the same time, a great confusion ensued, attended with much kicking from men and horses,

* Two pieces of wood, through which a halter runs, generally made of twisted birch.

and more noise, for all were equally engaged. So ridiculous a situation, without any great danger, created infinite laughter from those on shore. We thought the oversetting of the boat, at one time, impossible to be avoided, but it was prevented, fortunately, by three of the horses, who had extricated themselves from their drivers, leaping, like goats, into the river, and dragging one, more obstinate than the rest, with them. The first horse swam to the opposite shore; the rest followed. The Highlander, thus emerged, might have run the risk of being drowned, had not a friend caught him by the kilt, as he floated near the boat. He was hauled in, and the remainder of the cargo landed without farther trouble.

We embarked next, and landed very quietly, and, finding the road level, moved on at a good pace. The soil was here chiefly a reddish gravel, and the sides of the declivities nearly covered with very fine beds of broom.

FASCALLY.—The situation of this place is extremely romantic, and had been admired by us some time before we reached it. A scene near the bridge is particularly fine; and I could not help wondering how it escaped Mr. Pennant, for it is certainly far superior to his view. The road from hence to Blair we found excellent, running along the banks of the Gary; it extends, for a very considerable way, and was made entirely at the expense of Lord Braedalbanc, who, to facilitate the travelling, has erected, over the torrents that rush from the mountains into the lakes, a great number of stone bridges; Mr. Pennant says, as many as *thirty-two*; but I did not count them.

Having arrived at the inn, which we found tolerably comfortable, and dispatched a hasty dinner, we walked towards the castle; it is a noble pile of building, and the principal ducal residence, seated on an eminence above a plain, watered by the Gary, an outrageous stream, whose ravages have greatly deformed the valley, by the vast beds of gravel which it has left behind.

The house itself rather deceived our expectations, with respect to its internal embellishments, though it is certainly very commodious. The walls are wonderfully thick, as all old castles are, but have been much reduced in

height since the rebellion in 1746, when it was strongly fortified, and held out a close siege. I have heard many circumstances of this event when conversing with Mr. C. a lieutenant, who attended my father's volunteers in the year 1745. This gentleman was taken prisoner by the rebels besieging this castle, by whom, being neglected, he with some others escaped and joined Sir Andrew Agnew, then blocked up in it with his troops, and has often mentioned the great spirit with which it was defended.

I remember to have heard him say, that, in order to save a favourite horse they had taken in with them, grass was pulled from the ramparts, where it grew in some quantity, and though the men, so employed, were frequently in danger of being shot, and very often fired at, they carried their point.

The most singular piece of furniture here is a chest of drawers made of broom, most elegantly striped in veins of white and brown. This plant grows to a great size in Scotland, and furnishes pieces of the breadth of six inches. We saw several guns belonging to his grace, chiefly rifles, which, we thought, in general, too unwieldy.

Having seen the house, we walked through the plantations*, and passed some time in drinking a few bottles of our landlord's best claret, sent us with some biscuits to the hermitage. This hermitage is far preferable, in point of simplicity, to that of Dunkeld. The evening being fine, we went up to the York Cascade, which seemed to me calculated for a drawing, but is as well executed in Pennant's Tour as the subject admits.

Our landlord, who attended us, we found to be a very intelligent man, and were not a little pleased, in the course of the evening, to find, that by his means the gardener had procured us a few small perch, with which we hoped to be able to stock some of the lochs in Badenoch, where, as yet, they are unknown. Went to bed highly pleased with the reception we had met with.

* Pennant says that the culture of rhubarb, under the auspices of the Duke of Athol, with an intention of reducing the price for the benefit of the poor, has met with great success. However I may admire the plan, I fear it has been Utopian, as I could not trace the least reason to believe it ever existed.

July 9.—Morning delightful but very cold. The perch being examined, were found very lively, and I had no doubt, that in the tin kettle brought from London, having this object always in view, I should be able, by giving them fresh water at every brook, to keep them alive, and get them safe to Raits.

Our party proceeded two miles together, and then stopping at a small bridge near a mill, we separated; the carriage being sent on to Dalnacardock. We left our horses in a cabin, and, attended by the landlord as our guide, were conducted, after walking about a mile, to the first view of the Falls of Brewer; having previously passed by several beautiful cascades, and excavated rocks of divers forms.

The *Falls of Brewer* are superior to Pennant's boasted York Cascade. Had he seen this, I am confident he never would have mentioned the other.

To gain a drawing was not only very difficult, but exceedingly dangerous. Mr. Gerrard was very shy, but after gently reproaching him for his timidity, he was at length persuaded to follow me to a stone overhanging a precipice, where, had his foot slipped, it would have been his last sketch*.

Waterfalls, in my opinion, are subjects that no pencil can draw with the force they convey to a spectator, the chief astonishment being excited by the roaring sound of the water, which is inexpressible. Mr. Gerrard has succeeded, as well, under these circumstances, as any artist could possibly have done, and I am certain, few professional men who are chiefly educated in the metropolis, where Constitution Hill is thought a difficult ascent, could have been easily induced to go where he did, or to surmount the many obstacles which, even in proceeding thus far, we had to encounter. The morning was severely cold, and Mr. Gerrard's sedentary occupation made him feel its effects more sensibly than I did, though I was engaged, part of the time, in writing.

We proceeded, after thanking our landlord for his attention to the cabin, and, mounting our cavalry, trotted on to *Dalnacardock*, where we

* The goats were hanging on the opposite, rugged face of the glen, which added, if possible, a wildness to the scene.

found a good breakfast, as ready for us as we were to sit down to it, and my next care was to enquire about the perch, which were reported to be in perfect health and lively.

Liquors, and provisions of all kinds, at Dalnacardock, were plentiful and excellent, and Mr. P. and myself, finding our quarters so agreeable, determined to stay here the evening, and fish a lake next day, abounding with trout and char.

Set out the following morning at eleven, taking *Sappho* with us, with the intention of killing some snipes, the servants, with our fishing-tackle, provisions, liquors, &c. following. Fished, and killed some very fine trout; but they did not rise eagerly. Attempted, though near three o'clock, to go to a famous lake, a Scotch mile further. Arrived here, and killed some fish; but they were little superior in size to the former, and, in quantity, inferior. We lost, by this means, a good deal of time, but killed, on our return, thirty trout and one char*. One trout I saw coming at me, which I think might weigh five pounds, or thereabouts; but could not rise him.

Had not the evening foreboded rain, which now began to fall, I think I could easily have killed three dozen more, as they now began to rise freely; but were obliged to pack up our tackle, and return to the *auberge*, where we arrived about eight o'clock, and found dinner just ready; and, to give an idea how we starve in the Highlands, take the following table:

Hodge podge,
pudding, ——— greens,
trout and char,
roast mutton, excellent.

SECOND COURSE.

Brandered chickens,
cold hams,
snipes,
Cheshire cheese — biscuits.

* It is a very uncommon circumstance to kill char, either by fly or worm; nor did I, during my stay in the Highlands, hear of any fishers' having been so fortunate before.

WINES.

Claret, good.—Port, ditto,

limes, Jamaica rum, and

incomparable *porter* from *Calvert's*.

July 10.—Morning hazy. Proceeded for Raits. The kettle having been found very inconvenient, on account of the water splashing out at every jolt, which was unavoidable, I wished much to hire a person to carry it on foot, the next stage, only ten miles. I proposed it to several peasants; but taking advantage of our necessity, they had the conscience to ask me *eight days' wages*. I offered four; but was not able to induce them to comply under their first demand, and disappointed their unreasonable expectations very completely, by taking the fish on as we had hitherto done, and should have carried them with very little inconvenience, if the day had not been so warm, as to oblige us to supply them with fresh water at every brook. We had the precaution to take two quart-bottles filled with water, to give them where brooks were wanting, letting them have the quantity of air requisite*. The delays this business necessarily created, retarded our journey; but the hill of *Drumorter*, which we should otherwise have been induced to walk over, made us regret the less our keeping below. At length, we arrived at *Dalwhinny*, where our fish were plunged into the river, and recovered their sprightliness. A party of soldiers being at work, while dinner was preparing, I entered into conversation with the serjeant, wishing to know from him, if there was not amongst them, as it was probable there might be, a soldier who was a fisher, to whom I could safely intrust the fish; for, having brought them, with so much trouble, so far safe, I was particularly anxious that all our labour might not prove in vain, by any accident happening to them so near Raits. He soon found a soldier, and I agreed to give him half-a-crown, and, having also repeatedly directed him,

* All that fish require is, a given quantity of fresh water, which, being impregnated with air, is necessary to pass through their lungs, the want of which is certain death. Servants ignorantly think, that if they are covered with water, it is sufficient, and, by their ignorance, often defeat their master's expectations.

to be sure to give the fish fresh water, following the mode we had done, which I described, we saw him fairly on his journey, and then sat down to dinner.

After dinner we proceeded for Raits, where we were very anxious to arrive, the curiosity of my brother travellers being much raised, added to which, we wanted to be at a settled abode, after so much travelling.

Our horses were very fresh, though they had already come twenty-four miles over very steep roads. We could not avoid, however, stopping a few minutes to admire the falls of *Truem*, notwithstanding our haste, and got to *Pitmain* in the afternoon, which is thirteen miles from *Dakehinny*, in fifty-nine minutes.

Took a cup of tea with my old landlord, M'Lean, of whom I made enquiries concerning the families I knew, and then went on to Raits.

We had scarcely sat down to supper, when we were told that the soldier was arrived with the perch, though we did not expect him till eleven at night. We now dreaded, that by his hurrying on, he had not obeyed the order, to stop at the different brooks, to refresh the fish, and, on examination, were greatly mortified to find them all apparently dead. In hopes, however, of their recovering, we had them immediately plunged into the river, with orders for them to remain there all night; but the morning proved this experiment vain, and we were all equally concerned for a misfortune occasioned entirely by the soldier's obstinacy.

Raits.—July 12.—Day warm. Took a turn before breakfast, and examined the dogs, all of whom, after their sea-bathing, were fresh and vigorous. Fired, and killed two brace of ducks, and a brace and a half of snipes; but cut one of the tendons of my heel with the hard seam in my *fen* boots, and was obliged to hobble home before nine o'clock.

After breakfast, all the apparatus was unpacked, and we now received a dismal account of the voyage. It seems that the cutter, which I had engaged, was deeply laden with the stores, &c. but sailed very safely to Hull, where flour, corn, beans, biscuits, oatmeal, &c. were stowed properly,

and they again set sail with a fair wind. About two o'clock in the morning, and now in the main ocean, the housekeeper was alarmed with the unpleasant sensation of the trickling of water in her cot; but not quite satisfied with the cause, had given no alarm, when, on feeling a similar sensation, which had also been felt in another cot, the alarm was given, and the crew were not long before they discovered that they had sprung a leak.

The servants, with one voice, inveighed against the expedition, and would gladly have forfeited their year's wages to have been on *terra firma*. The pumps were set to work, and male and female used their best endeavours to free the hold, but they found that their utmost exertions made no impression in reducing the water, which appeared rather to gain upon them, and they very justly conceived that, should the weather not continue so favourable, they must all inevitably perish. Part of the little crew, with hasty epithets, blamed the captain for having brought them out in so crazy a vessel: others fell to prayers; however, on day-light appearing, the leak was at length fortunately discovered, and with difficulty so far stopt, that one hand, working every other hour, kept the hold tolerably dry. The wind still continued favourable, but the pump, not being made of the best materials, soon became in a manner useless, and the water once more gained upon them: in this dreadful dilemma, they saw a vessel with crowded canvass on the same tack, and, coming near her, they did not fail to make what signs of distress they could; nor was Mrs. C. deficient, for, having hoisted what white linen she could procure on the oar of the little jolly boat, they perceived the vessel bear up to them, which proved to be a smack bound for Whitby: the master of her lending them the assistance of two hands, and taking charge of the female, kept near the cutter, and at length got them safe into the harbour, where they unanimously took care that the vessel should at least undergo a thorough repair before they again trusted themselves in her.

This operation took up two days, and they then sailed, and were safely landed at Forres.

Their next concern was to procure carts to convey the cargo, and so little do these people carry in their small carriages, that it took no less than

forty-nine, independent of the boats, which were left to the care of the captain, who pleased himself with having invented a kind of sledge, which, with four horses, might transport the two boats over the mountains to Raits, and they were to be forwarded as soon as the horses, employed, returned.

July 12.—RAITS. Day fine. Examined my pasture. I had grass indeed for above twenty horses, but liable, with heavy floods, to be spoilt: in some parts it was boggy, and a better pasture for a snipe than for poor *Sampson*, who, though above seventeen hands and a half high, had been *abimé*, and with difficulty saved. This horse, in contrast with a Highland pony, seemed a different species of animal, and was held in the country to be a perfect curiosity. Arrive at the house at Raits to breakfast; find its outside appearance by no means equal to what it had been represented on paper, except in the prospect of sport, and would willingly have been off on any terms, and have lived in camp, had I not engaged it at the desire of my friends, whose wishes and whose health made it necessary for them to have one; except for these causes, I should certainly have given it up on my own account; but, daily expecting them, I had no alternative, therefore took it with all its servants, gardens, grass, conveniences, and inconveniences.

Breakfasted with Mrs. M'Intosh, my landlady, and family. The ladies were very civil and attentive, and Capt. M'Intosh, of Balnespich, an old acquaintance, did me the honour to come and arrange matters. They all dined and passed the evening with me, (having entered as landlord,) and a very agreeable one it was. What wines and other things they had in the house, I took on their own terms; which I afterwards found, in future negotiations, it is not always prudent to do.

July 13.—Day fine, got up early and examined every part of the premises, the ladies breakfasting with me: it began now to get sultry, yet, lame as I was, I attempted to shoot, but without *bofós*, having suffered sufficiently from them already. Saw plenty of ducks and snipes, and an uncommon bird, which I followed, but could not get a shot. The ducks, I understood, had suffered, as well as the snipes, from the severity of the winter, which made

them not so plentiful as last year. Killed five brace and a half of ducks, a brace of snipes, and a plover.

Dined and attempted to troll, but without success, the river not being in order; and, by some accident, the boats, which had engrossed all my thoughts, previous to my arrival, were still at Forres.

July 14.—Day fine. Having borrowed a boat, we were desirous to try our famous net, made by *Robert Buck*, a man of the first eminence in his business; but found it, though well calculated for Yorkshire rivers, too much leaded for these rocky waters. Killed a few large trout, but nothing equal to what we expected; determined, however, to take one more haul, and it proved very successful.

Returns; twenty-two trout, chiefly from four to five pounds, with the trimmers, one eel, one pike.

July 15.—Day as before. We were adjusting our plans for an evening's fishing, when Capt. Waller and Mr. Whitaker were announced, and immediately afterwards Dr. Grant and the Rev. Mr. Robert M'Pherson. Though I rejoiced particularly in having the company of these gentlemen, yet I found myself deranged, from the total inability to accommodate them to the extent of my wishes, and only lamented that they had not delayed their visit a day or two longer; however, they were easily entertained, and we passed our time very comfortably.

In the evening I received a cast of *hawks* and a *tercel*, sent me as a present from Lochaber, to my great joy, having despaired of procuring any.

July 17.—Day windy. Mr. Whitaker shot, while Capt. Waller and myself trolled down the river; had very indifferent sport, our boat being so crazy and ill found, that, by the creaking of the oars, we alarmed all the fish as we passed. By surmounting these defects, however, as much as possible, and, by giving greater length of line, I hooked a salmon, which gave me the first notice by leaping quite out of the water, and, assisted by the current, ran me off fifty yards of line with such velocity, that, in passing, it actually cut my thumb, and carried away the handle of my wheel. Ordered the boat to be run on shore, which took some time to execute, as she was unwieldy and

leaked prodigiously. Being landed, and the tackle apparently in good order, I thought myself sure of him, but soon found my error, for I discovered that his great effort was to run under a hollow bank, from which Capt. Waller and my servant, Matt, took great pains to dislodge him; but, in the attempt, they broke my tackle short by the hooks. Readjusted it, lamenting, more than ever, the want of my boats.

Proceeded down the Spey, killed some good fish, and, coming back to dinner, met Mr. Whitaker.

Returns of the day; trolling—one pike, seven large trout. Shot—eight ducks, three plover.

July 18.—Day again windy; took the nets, intending to draw the river and Loch Inch, which we conceived full of fish; and, having borrowed another boat of Mr. M'Intosh, proceeded in the two down the Spey, the party trolling and Mr. Whitaker shooting. Found, when too late, that our boat, which was dangerous in a river, became still more so in *Loch Inch*; we managed as well as we could, but it was impossible to make one foot of way against the wind: on the contrary, I plainly perceived that we lost ground, and that, if the wind grew still higher, which was however scarcely possible, we must inevitably perish; we, therefore, hoisted a handkerchief as a signal, and waited for the other boat to come down upon us, with the shooting party, which she could do at pleasure, having the wind: but, staying for Mr. Whitaker, who, anxious for sport, had hailed them from the shore, they were detained some time. At length they came along side, and, having taken us in tow, they proceeded down wind. This boat was a new one, and quite safe compared to ours, but neither of them were well built, being too high above the water, which gave the wind great hold; and, in other respects, they were awkward to manage. We put out our net, and expected excellent sport; but, owing to the wind and the rocky shore, did not kill one fish. At this instant, came to us, Messrs. M'Phersons, of Indereschy, who had been to visit us at Raits, but, seeing us on the lake, and apprehending our danger, from our bad boat, &c. had come to our assistance as soon possible. These gentlemen insisted on our dining with them, which we

accordingly did; and, in the interim, they wished us to try a draught with their nets. We complied, but without any success. As it was absolutely impossible to go to Raits in any boat against the wind, which was still blowing furiously, we walked home, which gave me an opportunity of showing my friends the charming road between this place and Raits, winding through the hanging birch woods, and having the view of Loch Inch and the Spey, with the adjacent meadows and corn fields. At my return, found a goss-hawk, at least said to be such, sent me by my good friends, the Rothemurcos.

Returns; wild ducks, nine; snipes, three; plover, two.

July 19.—Morning fine, afternoon showery. Went to church, where I found a much thinner audience than I had ever remembered, and, conversing upon this subject with the Rothemurcos, and other gentlemen of the neighbourhood, they informed me, that the spirit of emigration had seized the people of these parts, and that many handicraftsmen and others, whose services I much wanted, had actually left the country. My shoemaker and carpenter were both gone, and with them many more: this fully accounted for the thin congregation.

The evening proved very tempestuous, and every persuasion was made use of by me, to induce my visitors, the Laird of Rothemurcos and Mr. Cuming, to take such beds as I could give them, and to stay at Raits till the morning, but without success; and these gentlemen, having fortified themselves with a few bottles of claret and a dram, which, in the Highlands, is thought necessary to keep out the cold, set off in defiance of the weather. I felt much for them, as they must have had a very unpleasant ride.

July 20.—Day cold and showery. Examined my hawk, which I now clearly saw was a goss hawk, though I had before doubted it, on account of her downy feathers being still on her, and the darkness of the night. Sent to enquire how my friends got home, and received the most favourable accounts.

Mr. W. wishing much to see my pointers out, I took a short walk, near the house, with two brace of the steady *gentlemen*; and, though they had

never been out since last November, they behaved incomparably well. I tried also a brace of whelps, who were awkward at first, not having seen moor-game; but still I depended much upon the prospect they gave me. The day, indeed, was unfavourable for any dogs.

Returns; Mr. W. killed seven snipes. Fishing—one hundred and one trout.

July 21.—Day cold. I wished that Mr. W. should see a roebuck before he left the country; but, though there were several in the neighbourhood, it was impossible to get a shot at one, on such short notice, and he had resolved to leave us this day. I thought, therefore, the following deception might answer every purpose. I had ordered a goat, as nearly the colour of a roebuck as possible, to be procured the night before from the mountains where they then were, directing the falconers to place and tether him in the most inaccessible, obscure, and wild situation imaginable; which was done accordingly. The conversation, during supper, we had intentionally turned upon stags, roebucks, &c. till Mr. W.'s imagination became so heated, that no doubt he dreamt, in the night, of nothing else.

We now sat down to breakfast, when, as privately agreed on, we received intelligence, that the herdsman had seen, early that morning, a roe and a roebuck among the rocks. The company were all eager to pursue them, and the rifles being prepared and loaded by me (as knowing the proper charge), some with powder and double wadding, others with ball only, which were, in the presence of Mr. W. rammed down; every person, for fear of accident, had his post allotted him. Mr. W. in compliment, as a stranger, and on the point of quitting us, was attended by the falconer, as the most intelligent person, with *Otter*, the deer dog, in a slip, and Mr. Gerard, whose curiosity was also not a little heightened. Thus they proceeded, being repeatedly cautioned, that, as their game was remarkable for quickness of sight and hearing, they must be prepared to fire immediately. After great care, seldom speaking, and never but in whispers, and making signs, on passing by some very likely places, the falconer pretended he heard a rustling; upon which, as they had been directed, the party fell flat upon the

ground, cautiously crawling on; when Mr. W. seeing an animal, and concluding it to be the game he so ardently sought for, judiciously and precipitately fired. From the struggle made by the animal, occasioned by the report, with which he was unacquainted, Mr. W. imagining he had desperately wounded him, flew to seize him, but was repulsed by some strong and well-directed efforts of the goat's horns: this obliged him to call out loudly for the assistance of Otter, who, being slipped, rushed forward, but, in his hurry, did not discover the animal he was to attack, which was now almost covered and entangled in some strong junipers; but he soon came about, and, being properly fixed, he and Mr. W. seized on their antagonist with great avidity, who soon ought to have convinced them, by his language, that the roebuck in question was unfortunately only a shaven goat.

Capt. Waller and myself, who were standing on a very dangerous precipice, at a considerable distance, might have paid dear for this joke, for I nearly fell off the rock, overcome with a fit of laughter, which this truly-comic and well-executed scheme had occasioned.

Mr. W. for some time could not tell what to make of it, when he was complimented, in a strain of irony, on his great good fortune, &c. The jokes that went round, however, he bore with a pleasantry of temper so great and peculiar to himself, that, in the end, it totally disarmed the satirical remarks of the company: after dinner he was obliged to leave us, and we very much regretted the loss of his company, more especially as the weather during his stay had been so unfavourable for a keen sportsman in the midst of game.

July 22.—Day gloomy, but turned out delightful. Received a letter from my correspondent at Forres, acquainting me, that the detention of the cutter and boats arose from some directions ignorantly given by the master of the sloop that brought my baggage, respecting the loading of the intended sledges, as well as from the still greater ignorance of the carpenters employed in making them. The latter being acquainted with the road, vexed me much, as they ought to have known that sledges, made so heavy, could never be used in this, or probably in any other country. Thus I found that

I had suffered the want of my boats from the total impossibility of conducting them; for no person, though many had been applied to, would undertake to bring the sledges even without the boats. The carpenter's bill was paid, and there was no remedy, the sledges were obliged to be left, and the boats came perfectly safe without them, and, I found, had been very judiciously conducted. The express, which I had sent, being now returned, assured me that they were actually at Loch Baugh, and Captain Waller and I determined to set out to meet them, having procured some fine baits for trolling, and taking our apparatus with a small net for trout, together with linen and other necessities for some days.

No person could be more pleased than Captain Waller was with the morning's ride, and our sport afterwards was incomparable. It was the first day of his attempting to fish, and he enjoyed it much, but, unfortunately, a very large pike broke his rod, which took him up some time to repair. Returned to Avemore to dinner at eight in the evening, having sent a servant on before with a fine pike, which we found ready to dress.

Returns; trolling, thirteen pike; fox-hound one; trout with the net, but all too large for baits, thirty-three.

July 24.—The boats, &c. being all now safely arrived, we issued the following

GENERAL ORDERS.

That all the stores are to be immediately examined, and an account delivered in; and a similar one, also, to be sent of the condition of the hawks, pointers, &c.

RETURNS.

	In good Order.	Damaged.	Spoilt.
Hams, bacon, rein-deer and other tongues, smoked beef, pigs' countenances, &c.	Enough to serve till the end of October. Ditto — — —		
Pickles, sweetmeats, &c.			
Biscuits		Damaged.	
Tents and tent equipage			
Nets of all kinds			
Pegs for the tents wanting			
Oatmeal wanting			
Groceries			

HAWKS.

GOOD.

HAWKS.

BAD.

Miss M'Gee	} Red Falcons.	Croc Franc	} Red Tercels.
Miss L. Townsend		Craigon	
Death	} Red Tercels.		
Devil			

SETTERS.

POINTERS.

DEER HOUND.

Pero.	Carlo.	Orson.	} Good Order.
Cato.	Dargo.		
Claret.	Sappho.		
Sancho, lame.	Pero.		
	Dash.		
	Pluto.		

GUNS ALL IN GOOD ORDER.

GUN POWDER.

Two double barrels	} Powder dry 40lbs. Ditto.. rather damp 40 Shot 11 bags. Flints sufficient.
One rifle	
Three single barrels	

Examined the above, as by order, the 26th of July—WILLIAM LAWSON, head falconer, and inspector-general.

AFTER ORDERS.

Two waggons to go off to-morrow to Inverness (the nearest market town forty-two miles off), for oatmeal, corn, groceries, and other household articles, wines, &c.

Tried the hawks above the house, and each killed a young plover.

Attempted to fish for pike, but was misinformed, as those in the lake I fished were very small. Killed six trout; came home, and dined comfortably.

July 25.—Day windy. Went out, and saw innumerable quantities of wild ducks; but, since the late rain and flood, found there was no possibility of getting near them: a week before, *forty* might have been easily killed in a day. Saw also numbers of snipes; killed three brace and a duck, which last I nevertheless lost. Came home early.

Returns of the day, six snipes and one duck.

July 26.—Day charming. Went to some lochs, which proved to be the lower *Guiacks*, said to be six miles off, but turned out ten.

The road to these lakes is hilly and stony, and, when I came to the first, from the idea I had of the country, I judged it must be the lower of the two I had fished from Dalnacardock; and which, not knowing their names, I had called, as before observed, Lochs Sinclair: my guide was positively clear that I never could have been there, and Mr. Lawson joined with him in that opinion.

The matter was elucidated by asking a herdsman, whether any gentlemen had fished those lakes: he said, he had heard that a gentleman had been seen a few days before at the upper one: by this means only could I have ever ascertained the fact.

The day was too calm; my guide and the herdsman, pretending they were good fishers; in this country they pretend to every thing; I got my tackle adjusted, and fishing very fine, killed twenty-seven good trout; and, if I had had the boat in order, for there is one belonging to his Grace of Gordon, I might have killed one hundred.

The shape of this lake, the sides of the mountains around it, coming down sharp to the edge like a punch-bowl, with the ling or heath, together with stunted bushes on the verge, made it impossible to throw a line to kill good fish without entangling the tackle. In every hour I really lost forty minutes in readjusting, and this could not be avoided.

Saw the skeleton and jaws of a trout, destroyed, as I suppose, by an otter, which, at least, must have been ten pounds weight. Dined on the side of this beautiful sheet of water, as luxuriously as ever I did at Weltgie's or Letelliers.

On the top of these mountains, to the south, is what is called the Forest of Guiaek*, the property of his Grace of Gordon; and before it was disforested, six or seven years ago, four hundred head of deer might be seen at a time.

On my return to Raits, killed three grey plover: the hawks were flown twice, and succeeded, and we found that *Claret*, (procured as an addition to the pointers I had, and brought to Raits with infinite care and trouble) was really good for nothing, and though much pains were taken to reclaim him, he proved of no use.

Returns of the day, twenty-seven trout, three grey plover, two snipes.

July 27. — Day very inviting, but rather too warm. Went after breakfast towards the river Dulnon, nine miles off, intending to fish there. Tried the pointers and hawks on my road, in hopes that this rivulet might be full of water after the late rains; but was disappointed, the rain either not having affected it, or, from its rapidity, it had run off; but though very clear, I killed, in two hours, eighteen trout, about the size of herrings, and raised one of about two pounds, but could not hook him.

The edges of this river I found beautifully chequered with quantities of fine juniper, forming, here and there, covers of two or three acres, well calculated to preserve foxes, and also game, from the hawks and eagles, both of which abound. The intermediate spaces are clothed with excellent and sweet pasturage, the best in these mountains.

Saw innumerable quantities of game after giving over fishing; broods of eight, nine, ten, and fourteen: truly speaking, on a mile square, two hundred birds killed would not be missed. Each pointer (two brace out) were fre-

* A forest here differs from our idea of one in England; in general they mean large hills, having good grass; they are kept undisturbed, and of course, the red deer being quick, prefer these boundaries, but not a *tree* is to be seen.

quently, at the same time, pointing different broods. Flew the hawks with their usual success, and, from our being so agreeably engaged, though having unluckily no couples, we wished to get off our pointers, it was ten before I returned to Raits.—Returns, eighteen trout, three couple of ducks.

July 28.—Day rather windy and showery. In the morning, when we rose, we found that plenty of trout for baits had been received, and having breakfasted, chiefly on goats' whey, with two very agreeable ladies of Avemore, to whom I was introduced by letter from the D. of Gordon, we induced them to honour us with their company, to see our boats, and the mode of fishing with fox-hounds, which had excited the curiosity of many persons, ladies, as well as gentlemen: all were perfectly unacquainted with this method, and various, no doubt, were their ideas concerning it; but the day proving unfavourable, the ladies postponed their ride till the next day. We fished with rod, and had very good sport. One large fish broke Captain Waller's tackle, and went off.—Returns; trolling, eleven pike.

July 29.—Day still windy. With some difficulty, by ten o'clock, the boats were got to *Loch Alva*, to which place we proceeded; but having been disappointed, by a person in whom we confided, for baits, and, our servants not succeeding, we were but indifferently provided.

Trolled some time without any success, though we had heard that there were pike in this loch of an immense size, few, indeed, had been caught; but many fishers had lost their tackle, the strength of which showed that the fish that carried it off must be very large. Wonderful were the accounts we received; but we did not give much credit to them, and, not raising a single fish, I began to think the whole was fabulous, and wished myself back at Lawson's Gulf, though I was confident, I had left very few pike there. The ladies now came up to me, whom Captain Waller had politely conducted, as I had gone before to put the fox-hounds in order for them, and, on my mentioning my apprehensions of the scarcity of fish, he concluded, as I had done, that there were few or none.

I had scarce sailed fifty yards farther, when I perceived a fish coming at

me, and soon hooked and landed him; he was much the same size as those taken at Lawson's Gulf, but stronger and darker coloured.

This revived my hopes of sport, and, agreeable to signals, I hoisted the standard of England, and baited a fox-hound, from his colour, called the *Black Admiral*.

I again kept cruising, and, on the ladies seeing how safely the *Ville de Paris* rode through the water, one of them did me the honour to come aboard: at first, indeed, she showed some small tokens of fear, but they were soon dissipated; and, turning a bay, I saw a fish rise with incredible ferocity, at least such as I had not experienced in Lawson's Gulf, or elsewhere.

Miss S—— was quite delighted: we ran the boat ashore, and having given my rod to one of the servants, I landed the lady safely on the beach, and then, retaking the rod, I began to play my fish in earnest, and soon found him very strong, which convinced me that these pike were not so easily killed as those in Lawson's Gulf: my tackle was excellent, and I did not fear killing him, though I apprehended much trouble, from some immensely large roots of trees, which I saw just below the surface of the water, under which the pike generally harbour, and occupy them as their strong holds, from whence they are ready to seize their prey. At length, with the assistance I had, and the landing-net properly applied, we brought him safely on shore. I thought him a most noble fish: he was nearly a yard long, very well fed, and in high condition.

Hoisted, as a signal to Captain Waller, a pennant at the mast-head, and ran down to him, to inform him of my success; he had killed three very good fish; but not near the size of those I had taken.

His boat was very unmanageable for want of proper ballast, and, the weather being squally, he chose to return to the inn before me. I still continued fishing with great attention, hoping to kill another large pike, and hooked one of about fourteen pounds, and killed him; afterwards a fifth, of prodigious weight, was hooked, which frequently threw himself out of the water, and I clearly perceived that he was much larger than any I had yet

seen: we thought him, at least, twenty-five pounds; but he broke hold, and I much lamented the loss of him: however, in attempting to raise him again, I rose another, which, I at first, took to be the same; this was a remarkable strong fish, and afforded me great sport before I killed him: he was above twenty pounds. I afterwards killed another, of nearly the same weight, and a small one of about nine pounds, and then returned to Captain Waller, highly pleased with the great sport I had had.

After dinner, the ladies did us the honour to make tea for us, and we passed a very delightful evening.

July 30.—Day changeable and stormy. After breakfast went again to Loch Alva, having got a large quantity of fine trout for bait; but, for many hours, could not obtain a rise. Captain Waller baited the fox-hounds, and as his boat was to be sent forward, I came down to him, having killed a very fine pike of above twenty pounds, the only one I thought we had left in the loch. The captain came on board, and we trolled together, without success, for some time, and, examining the fox-hounds, found no fish at them. At length I discovered one of them, which had been missing, though anxiously sought for, from the first time of our coming here: it was uncommonly well baited, and I was apprehensive that some pike had run it underneath a tree, by which means both fish and hound would be lost. On coming nearer, I clearly saw that it was the same one which had been missing, that the line was run off, and, by its continuing fixed in the middle of the lake, I made no doubt but some monstrous fish was at it. I was desirous that Captain Waller, who had not met with any success that morning, should take it up, which he accordingly did, when, looking below the stern of the boat, I saw a famous fellow, whose weight could not be less than between twenty and thirty pounds. But notwithstanding the great caution the captain observed, before the landing net could be used, he made a shoot, carrying off two yards of cord.

As soon as we had recovered from the consternation this accident occasioned, I ordered the boat to cruise about, for the chance of his taking me again, which I have known frequently to happen with pike, who are wonder-

fully bold and voracious: on the second trip, I saw a very large fish come at me, and, collecting my line, I felt I had him fairly hooked; but I feared he had run himself tight round some root, his weight seemed so dead: we rowed up, therefore, to the spot, when he soon convinced me he was at liberty, by running me so far into the lake, that I had not one inch of line more to give him. The servants, foreseeing the consequences of my situation, rowed, with great expedition, towards the fish, which now rose about seventy yards from us, an absolute wonder! I relied on my tackle, which I knew was in every respect excellent, as I had, in consequence of the large pike, killed the day before, put on hooks, and gimp, adjusted with great care; a precaution which would have been thought superfluous in London, as it certainly was for most lakes, though, here, barely equal to my fish. After playing him for some time, I gave the rod to Captain Waller, that he might have the honour of landing him; for I thought him quite exhausted, when, to our surprise, we were again constrained to follow the monster nearly across this great lake, having the wind, too, much against us. The whole party were now in high blood, and the delightful *Ville de Paris* quite manageable; frequently he flew out of the water to such a height, that though I knew the uncommon strength of my tackle, I dreaded losing such an extraordinary fish, and the anxiety of our little crew was equal to mine. After about an hour and a quarter's play, however, we thought we might safely attempt to land him, which was done in the following manner: *Newmarket*, a lad so called from the place of his nativity, who had now come to assist, I ordered, with another servant, to strip, and wade in as far as possible; which they readily did. In the mean time I took the landing net, while Captain Waller, judiciously ascending the hill above, drew him gently towards us. He approached the shore very quietly, and we thought him quite safe, when, seeing himself surrounded by his enemies, he in an instant made a last desperate effort, shot into the deep again, and, in the exertion, threw one of the men on his back. His immense size was now very apparent; we proceeded with all due caution, and, being once more drawn towards land, I tried to get his head into the net, upon effecting which, the

servants were ordered to seize his tail, and slide him on shore: I took all imaginable pains to accomplish this, but in vain, and began to think myself strangely awkward, when, at length, having got his *snout* in, I discovered that the hoop of the net, though adapted to very large pike, would admit no more than that part. He was, however, completely spent, and, in a few moments, we landed him, a perfect monster! He was stabbed by my directions in the spinal marrow, with a large knife, which appeared to be the most humane manner of killing him, and I then ordered all the signals with the *sky-scrapers* to be hoisted; and the whoop re-echoed through the whole range of the Grampians. On opening his jaws, to endeavour to take the hooks from him, which were both fast in his gorge, so dreadful a forest of teeth, or tushes, I think I never beheld: if I had not had a double link of gimp, with two swivels, the depth between his stomach and mouth would have made the former quite useless. His measurement, accurately taken, was *five feet four inches*, from eye to fork*.

On examining him attentively, I perceived that a very large bag hung deep below his belly, and, thinking it was lower than usual with other pike, I concluded that this had been deeply fed but a short time before he was taken. After exhibiting him, therefore, to several gentlemen, I ordered that my housekeeper, on whom I could depend, should have him carefully opened the next day, and the contents of his stomach be reserved for inspection, and now ordering the servants to proceed with their burden, we returned to Avemore, drank tea, and afterwards went on to Raits, where we produced our monster for inspection, to the no small gratification of the spectators, whose curiosity had been strongly excited to view a fish of such magnitude.

July 31. — Day warm, went to church, and afterwards had a large party to dinner. Agreeable to the orders of the preceding day, Mrs. C. opened the pike, and sent to us the contents of his stomach, which, to our surprise, consisted of part of another pike half digested. The tumour, or bag, arose from his having, no doubt many years since, gorged a hook, which seemed to us

* An engraving, from a picture of Mr. Gerrard's, the full size of this fish, may be had by applying to Lieut. Elliot, Lisson Green, near Tyburn Road.

better calculated for *sea* than for *fresh-water* fishing. It was wonderfully honey-combed, but free from rust, so that I cannot doubt its having been at least ten years in his belly. His head and back bone I ordered to be preserved in the best manner I could devise, and the rest to be salted down.

The weight of this fish, judging by the trones we had with us, which only weigh twenty-nine pounds, made us, according to our best opinions, estimate him at between forty-seven and forty-eight pounds. I had before this seen pike of thirty-six pounds, and have had them at Thornville of above thirty*; but the addition of seventeen pounds and a half made this quite a different fish. There may be larger pike, but I cannot readily credit the accounts of such until I receive more authentic information†.

We afterwards tried this lake several times, but could not get a rise, from which I inferred that there were few, if any, large pike left in it. In fact, if we reflect on the quantity of food so large an animal must require every year, it cannot be expected that any piece of water can supply many such fish.

August 1.—Morning beautiful. Intending to have had some sport in duck-shooting, while Capt. Waller trolled, I got the small boat, with great difficulty, on a lake, likely for pike; and whose borders, likewise covered with reeds, promised plenty of ducks.

This lake was immensely deep, and, as I was pretty confident we were the first navigators upon it, in honour of my friend, I called it *Capt. Waller's Lake*. Got a rise from a small pike, killed a brace and a half of ducks and a snipe; but, the day foreboding rain, we came home, fortunately as it happened, for it turned out a rainy day.

* Those in my ponds at Thornville were regularly fed, and became very familiar, in so much, that they would take any thing given to them, and the largest frequently has taken a white glove, thrown in after feeding him with frogs, some dozens of which he would devour: I have frequently seen these fish strike at a stick which was gently splashed in the water, and, if not held tight, it was sure to be carried off. A gentleman, hearing this, made a trifling bet that it would not happen again, which bet he paid. Certainly nothing can be more voracious.

† I was informed, that, in Loch Spey, a pike was killed, which weighed one hundred and six pounds, and that Mr. Richardson killed one of forty pounds.

August 2.—Day doubtful. Lured the cast of gentle hawks. The goss hawk not having sufficiently drove her feathers, and thought it prudent not to run the least risk of straining her, or breaking them.

Passed this day, as I had done the preceding evening, writing letters, &c. Evening very fine.

August 3.—Day showery, with a light southerly breeze. Sent off the servants with the gig, to attend the ladies at Avemore, who had promised to honour Raits with their company to dinner. Capt. Waller fished with the seine, and, as my heel was still not sufficiently hardened, I remained quietly at home, hoping, by rest, to cure it thoroughly.

Capt. Waller soon brought in a small dish of trout: they were fine fish, but the net, fastening on a root, could not be got out.

Three ladies and one gentleman dined with us; the ladies, with great ease and good humour, sung some very old Scotch ballads, and we passed a most pleasant evening.

Returns of the day; thirteen fine trout, one about four pounds.

August 4.—Day delightful. Mr. Gerrard, who had not had any opportunity of seeing the diversions of hawking and setting, went with Capt. Waller up to the mountains, attended by one of the falconers. The whelps they took behaved at first very wildly, not having been out since they came to Raits; the steady ones very well. They netted two brace of snipes, which the hawks took, when *scaled*, very eagerly. I had sent my boat forward to Loch Guinach, a loch seemingly very likely for pike: I now thought I would ride on, which, with great difficulty, I did, and found the way so hard of access, that it was matter of astonishment to me how they got the boat there. Trolled the lake for some hours, taking my gun, in case I should find a brood of ducks: killed one small, shabby pike and two good ones, and shot a *petrel*, paying very dearly, by the trouble I had, and the risk of increasing my lameness. Left the lake, and, in returning, called on Mr. P. and drank tea with a large party of ladies and gentlemen, whom I found, though it was a delightful summer evening, seriously set down to whist, at three card

tables; the constant amusement of both sexes, in this country, summer and winter.

Returns; seventeen trout, three pike. Hawks—two brace of snipes.

August 5.—Morning gloomy. I had fixed on this day for a *fête champêtre*, or rather *regatta*, on Lake Alva, where three or four families, consisting of ladies and gentlemen, had promised to attend; and, having a marquee pitched, we were to have fished with the fox-hounds for large trout and pike, which we knew to abound: but it was agreed, if the weather proved unfavourable at nine o'clock, to postpone the amusement till the Monday following: this was unlucky, for, though it rained at that hour, after eleven, there never was a more delightful day.

Capt. Waller fished with the net, and killed some good trout. I rode to Loch Alva, but the evening turning out cold and windy, had not a rise, except from one large trout, which I had hooked on the first tack; but which, running among some stones, got off. In returning, passed an hour or two with my friend, the Laird of M'Intosh, and his friend the captain. The very cordial reception I met with, and not having seen the latter since last year, made me regret the necessity I was under of refusing his warm solicitations to stay supper.

Returns; twenty-one trout.

After orders given, that every thing must be in readiness for an expedition to Glen Ennoch, should the morning at five second our wishes, went to bed.

August 6.—At half past four we were awakened, and a finer morning never ushered in the day. The whole house was roused, but it being the first excursion of the kind, this season, many things were mislaid, though every precaution had been taken by me the evening before.

Started at eight, found the Spey unfordable, and were obliged to ride round above four miles, by Ruthven Ferry. I ordered the servants, with two brace of pointers, the *Censurer*, and other apparatus, to cross over in a boat, and meet us on a hill marked out; and then, agreeing to make one of the gullies of snow our guide, we proceeded; but there being a valley full of

corn, and the river Fische to cross, were obliged to bend about a mile farther than we expected. Up the vale of Fische is an extreme wild view: at ten o'clock, we were at the foot of the mountain, the heat intense, the mercury standing at 84 Farenheit.

A severe labour we had to ascend this mountain, as steep as the side of a house; rocky, and sometimes boggy: whilst frequently large stones, on which our horses stept with apparent security, would give way, and whirl down the precipice, so that they were frightened beyond imagination. I had taken the precaution to recommend, to our gentlemen, to follow my example, as I well knew how very fallacious these stones were, having some years since slid down one several yards before I could find an opportunity of extricating myself, which, had I not done, I might have endangered a limb, and in such a situation the consequences would have been truly melancholy. At twelve o'clock, we got up to the first snow, and, before one, we thought we were near the mouth of Glen Ennoch, and then depositing our Champaign, lime, shrub, porter, &c. in one of the large snow-drifts, beneath an arch, from which ran a charming spring, we agreed to dine there. In my way up, the pointers had found some game, and I killed at two points, an old moor cock and a ptarmigan, which I ordered to be well picked and prepared for dinner.

Having rested a few minutes, the gentlemen left their horses to the care of the servants, who had orders from me not to allow them to eat any kind of grass, however tempting it might appear, having heard of the bad qualities of the grass which grew here, the preceding summer. They then kept moving forward, according to my directions, over large stones, which was not effected without frequently making use of both hands and feet, and taking the greatest care not to allow the horses to turn their heads round. An impatience, however, prompted them to discover what still remained concealed, and, getting the better of all obstacles, they at last arrived at the top. It is impossible to describe the astonishment of the whole party when they perceived themselves on the brink of that frightful precipice, which separated them from the lake below! They remained motionless a considerable time,

equally struck with admiration and horror. The mountain above them, to the right, chequered with drifts of snow, and differing but little from it in colour; the immense rocks to the left, separated by large fissures, the safe abode of eagles; and even the precipices around, appeared to them truly MAJESTIC: nor is this saying too much, for such is the impression they naturally inspire. Let the reader figure to himself a mountain at least eighteen thousand feet above him, and a steep precipice of thirteen thousand feet below, encompassed with conical and angular rocks; then let him imagine men and horses scrambling over huge masses of stone, which, though of immense size, are frequently loose, and at every step seem as if the next would carry them off into the air beyond its edges, and the very idea will be enough to make him shudder. Yet the eye, having dwelt awhile on these frightful, naked piles, is soon relieved, and feels an agreeable composure from the scene beneath, where the lake, like a sheet of glass, reflects, on its extensive bosom, all the objects around: this, bordered by soft, sandy banks, whose fine, but partial, verdure, scattered over with small herds of cattle, grazing and bleating; and a single *bothie*, the temporary residence of the lonely herdsman; softens, in some measure, the unpleasant idea of danger, which is apt to arise; while the solemn silence, interrupted only by the hoarse notes of ptarmigants, increasing at the approach of strangers, or by the dashing of the never-ceasing cascades, soothes the mind with the most agreeable emotions.

As soon as our party could disengage their attention from objects so totally new to them, they were desirous of descending this dreadfully-fine precipice, half the day being now nearly spent, and, though the lake appeared to them at no great distance, I knew they would find it a tedious and severe walk before they got to it; and in fact they found it such, for, as they afterwards informed me, it took them an hour and seven minutes to complete it.

In the interval I attempted to kill a ptarmigan or two, simply to pass the time, not being desirous of risking my leg much, and occasionally looked out for my friends, whom I imagined I saw, but found afterwards that I was deceived by the distance.

+ For "Thousand" read hundred —

After five hours absence, they came up, quite exhausted, and found me looking for some ptarmigants I had killed, as specimens, for Mr. Gerrard; but, unwilling to load myself in so hot a day, I had collected and left them near where I had shot them, and had now anxiously sought for them near two hours without success. At length, by the assistance of Dargo, they were found. Captain Waller had begged me to leave him to himself till he recovered, he was so much fatigued.

A thought struck me; I placed a ptarmigant, in such a position, that it appeared to be alive, and then mentioning to the captain that I had seen one, which he never had, immediately on discovering it, he fired and shot it; this revived him more than any thing I could have given him. The having shot a ptarmigant was now the only topic of his conversation, and it would have been cruel to have undeceived him.

Our dinner, which was soon dressed, proved an excellent one; the chief dish consisted of two brace and a half of ptarmigants and a moor cock, a quarter of a pound of butter, some slices of Yorkshire-smoked ham, and rein-deer's tongue; with some sweet herbs, pepper, &c. prepared by the housekeeper at Raits. These, with a due proportion of water, made each of us a plate of very strong soup, which was relished with a keenness of appetite that none but those who have been at Glen Ennoch can experience; an appetite, far, very far superior to the palled one, with which the gentlemen at Weltgie's or Lethellier's eat their sumptuous and costly meals.

The heat on the top of this mountain was very great, at the bottom it was really an oven. I tried the temperature of the water rushing under the arch of snow on which we sat, and wherein our Champaign and sherbet were plunged, and it was at $43\frac{1}{2}$ Farenheit. We now drank, in a bumper of Champaign, (gentlemen and servants faring alike,) success to the sports of the field, and, with the addition of a tumbler of sherbet and a cordial, were enabled to pack up our apparatus and proceed.

I found myself very unequal to the task I had to undergo, having increased the wound on my back sinews; however, there was no other conveyance but my own supporters, disabled as they were, and I hobbled along

leading my horse, which more than once had nearly fallen upon me; I exchanged with Mr. Gerrard, and let his go, as he had constantly followed mine last year every where, without any further trouble, and this year I soon found that he had not forgot this very valuable addition to his other good qualities.

If the mountain was difficult to climb, it was not less so to descend, which, I confess, I had not attended to; I knew we should be late, and did not expect to get home before ten at night; but, by frequently missing the small appearance we had of a road, and by other unavoidable delays, we did not get down to the Birch Coppice till near eleven, at which time I found my horse very ill indeed: he had for some time appeared sluggish, but now I found that it was not owing to fatigue, as I had imagined, but to real illness; for, when I hit him with my switch, his belly resounded like a drum, which occasioned several jocose remarks from my friends; but, had we known his distress, we should certainly have had the humanity to sympathise with him, as he must have been in great pain*.

Per varios causas per tot discrimine rerum tendimus.

At length, we came to a village, which, from my idea of the country, for I never was on that side before, I knew, by the course of the river, could not be far from Ruthven: here we made some enquiries, but met with people either unacquainted with our questions, or stupid beyond imagination; for they directed us to a road which, I was certain, was diametrically opposite. With some difficulty, I persuaded my companions to follow me; and by the roaring of the river Troomy, I pursued my road till I reached Ruthven. From thence we easily found our way to the ferry, where it seems we might have waited some time before we could have crossed; but, fortunately meeting with a gentleman, to whom I was known,

* I would strongly recommend to those who wish to cultivate a sympathising disposition towards the brute creation to read that excellent treatise, intitled, "A Comparative View of the State and Faculties of Man with those of the Animal World," by Dr. Gregory:

he directed and escorted us across the ford, barely passable, as it took my horse, by much the least of the three indeed, up to the skirts of the saddle.

We soon arrived at Raits, and found our servants had just got there before us, though we expected they would have been out all night; the great advantage they had had, arose from their being unincumbered; so that they could cut shorter down the mountain than we, who were obliged to attend to our horses, and lead them round bogs and mosses, which men could cross.

Supper was served up, and we again eat with avidity, and, having drank a glass of weak, but warm, lime punch, we all went well satisfied to bed.

August 7.—Day delightful. As Captain Waller had been so much pleased with the views of the country, and had so highly enjoyed our day at Glen Ennoch, I wished to adopt my measures so that he might see Loch Laggan and Loch Neiland; and, in his way southward, I purposed to show him Loch Guinach, from whence he might pass across to Blair.

He was limited in point of time, having an appointment at Leith races, and, as the weather was not always the most accommodating, we were sometimes obliged to relinquish, in the morning, schemes which we had formed the day before. However, every thing being prepared, and two servants having been sent on, by four o'clock in the morning, by the *Ville de Paris*, our party, consisting of Captain Waller, Mr. Gerrard, and myself, set off, after breakfast, for Loch Neiland, where Mr. Gerrard was to draw while we fished.

The road to this place, as far as Indereschy, was as beautiful as can be conceived; hanging-woods, sheets of water, immense mountains, glittering with the rays of the sun, and the road winding through coppices of birch, exhaling the most grateful, aromatic odours, made the whole scene perfectly enchanting; and gave the utmost satisfaction to my companions, who had never experienced it before. Cross the Spey, which, at Indereschy, is but a moderate ford, and, proceeding over a fine, verdant lawn, found we had to traverse an extensive bed of stones, where the devastations of the uncontrollable Fische are strongly marked: our horses could scarcely keep their feet. At length, having surmounted this difficulty, I took the lead, and

made the best of my way, directing my course, by the eye, for the forest of Rothemurcos, in which I knew Loch Neiland to be situated.

We soon saw by the track that our boat was before us, and, had reason to hope that she was launched, or would be on the water before we arrived; being all equally keen for our sport, this was highly pleasing. I had great expectations in pike fishing, having been told that in this lake the pike were of an incredible size, and very numerous, though difficult to kill. This was owing to the immense fir trees which were blown into all parts of the lake, by heavy and very severe storms: beneath these old trees the fish harbour, and, running under, or round them, few, or none, I understood, had ever been taken by angling; what were killed had chiefly been shot.

Contrary to our sanguine expectations, we came up with our boat, about two miles short of Loch Neiland, consequently we proceeded slower, and kept with the servants part of the way, in order to give them assistance, if the road should require it; and, through our vigilance and attention, I am confident she was got upon the lake an hour sooner than she otherwise would have been.

Loch Neiland is a most enchanting spot; the lake itself is not large, when compared with those we had already passed and explored; but every turn presents a fresh beauty. On the water stands an old castle, now in ruins, whose walls are, at least, eleven feet thick, and partly covered with ivy: these, with one or two old wild ash-trees, whose weather-beaten trunks resist, with all their force, the different blasts which, in time, must precipitate them into the lake, give additional lustre to this *coup d'œil*. Nearly one half of this sheet of water to the north is bounded by some very fine, short, tender pasturage, and girded by an irregular wood of weeping birches, here and there exhibiting views of beautiful rocks, vying with each other in the singularity of their shapes, and the natural elegance of their contrasted shades.

To the west is seen, over some plain, but rising, moors, the great mountains above Raits, amongst which will be easily distinguished the beautiful Croke Franc.

To the south are discerned some very lofty, perpendicular mountains, rising directly out of an immense forest of the finest pines; and, to add to the wildness of this romantic scene, innumerable trees, of a prodigious size, appear torn up by the roots, in the strangest manner: this has been caused by the violence of the preceding winter's hurricane, from which my friend, Mr. G. the proprietor, assures me, that he suffered a loss, amounting nearly to one thousand pounds.

To the north is a forest composed of firs and junipers, and filled with roebucks and stags, whose foliage may well be said, by its thickness, to be

Impenetrabile nullo astro—————

as is the delightful *Glenmore*, where, I believe, the trees are still larger than in Rothemurcos forest.

Trolled the lake, and killed thirteen fine pike.

Captain Waller now hailed me; he had been riding, and exploring this immense forest, which, of itself, is sufficient to falsify the assertions of Churchill, and all other writers, who have presumed to declare, that there are no trees in Scotland.

Having taken him on board, we hoisted a signal to Mr. Gerrard, who was on shore sketching, that dinner was ready, after which we examined the fox-hounds, and found several unbaited, the baits having been probably torn off against the trees; others we could not find, though we took considerable pains. At last we came up to one, the Admiral of the Black: Captain Waller's servant had seen this advance towards him with incredible fury, and we concluded there must be some very weighty fish at him, which I am confident was the case; for I never saw any one show more strength or sport: we had hold of him more than once; but, with a single effort, he broke the cord, and carried off about three yards of line.

Killed afterwards a very fine pike of about seventeen pounds, which I had conceived to be much larger from his strength, and the effect it had on my rod, a most incomparable one, and held by me invaluable, since I had

killed with it the fish we so justly called the monster. This fish, had I not prudently hurried into the middle of the lake, must inevitably have broken me, by running under the old trees, which there form a perfect forest under water: and which, with the addition of some thick tufted grass, would have been his fort; but, knowing my advantages, I was as desirous of maintaining them as he was of gaining his, and it was in this effort that I thought my rod in danger: at length I landed him, and soon afterwards killed another, after which I continued a fruitless search for the fox-hounds, while the gentlemen were getting their horses, and preparing for their departure. It was now past eight o'clock, but so highly were we pleased with this heavenly scene, the very finest I think in Scotland, that we did not regard its growing late. In fact, it is such a charming spot, that I must strongly recommend it to all travellers into these parts; and to ladies as well as gentlemen, if they can ride on horseback, either single or double, for the road is very safe, going round by Indereschy, from whence they will have a favourable view of Loch Inch, which will sufficiently compensate for turning a little out of the direct road.

I would, in this case, recommend the following route: from Pitmain take the road to Avemore, which is to be continued till you come opposite where the road turns off to the right; this leads to the ferry, from thence get a guide to Loch Neiland, which again turns off the road to the right, a mile on this side Rothemurcos, and I pronounce this to be one of the very first rides in the world.

On our return, the night proving dark, we met with great difficulty in finding our way across the stony bed of the ungovernable Fische. We had at least four hundred yards to pass over this road, and sometimes walked and sometimes rode, but with great trouble got our horses to face the stream, which is very rapid, though narrow; the entrance into it on this side being sudden, made it appear deeper than it was in the morning, and the road broader; but I believe these circumstances arose from the darkness of the night, as I could not conceive that there had been any rain, even in the mountains, to increase the stream.

Travellers passing over the Spey had better take the ferryman as a guide across the Fische; or, should he be unable to attend them, they ought to go by Indereschy; there they will readily be directed to cross where the channel is shallower and the stony passage shorter. To men, these instructions are of no great consequence, but to ladies, wishing to take this ride, they are of some importance; not that there is much danger, but it is well worth the trouble to avoid a bad road.

The night, which had been overcast, became by degrees less obscure, and as we rode on about a mile, the moon occasionally peeping out, indulged us with some charming glances of the silvery Loch Inch, glittering through the foliage of the birch and oak, whilst the wild ducks, in search of food, cackling at the same time over our heads, added to the solemnity of the scene.

We were obliged to send a messenger back to order the servants, attending the Ville de Paris, to remain all night at a farm-house on the other side of the Fische, and not to attempt to pass it till the morning, lest any accident should happen to the boat or to the carriage; and it was past ten when we reached home, all completely satisfied with the day's excursion.

August 8.—Day charming. Had some difficulty to prevail on Captain Waller to stay, though he had given me hopes of taking two days fishing with me on the Loch Guiacks, and encamping on its borders, but as a boat was requisite, which had been left behind, and only just arrived, and the horses jaded, that scheme was impracticable. I lamented it the more, as by the Guiacks Mr. W. would easily, by procuring a guide, have got across the mountains to Blair, which would not have protracted his journey above a day. We resolved, therefore, to amuse ourselves by examining a farm, which I intended purchasing, and, observing the different situations for building, &c. in short, we filled up our time very pleasantly.

After this, having ordered the boats on a lake, still unexplored, I thought it would be some relief to Captain W. now become a keen troller, to take an early dinner, that we might attempt to fish this maiden lake.

We dined accordingly, and had very excellent sport; killed eleven pike, chiefly from three to five pounds; I shot five ducks.

August 9.—Day charming. I would readily have sent off the boats, &c. to Loch Guiacks, but I well knew there was no mode of keeping Capt. W. but that of drawing him on by degrees. At breakfast we were surprised to find that the captain had stolen a march upon us, and his cavalry, all caparisoned, were at the door. His plan was apparently fixed, but on Mr. Gerrard's explaining to him the impossibility of finishing his portrait without his giving him that morning's sitting, he was prevailed upon to stay.

We ordered some trimmers to be set for eels, but rather wished to kill some lampreys, a fish Capt. W. had not yet seen, and from the violence all former trimmers had suffered from fish unknown, I concluded it must have been from lampreys, having heard of many large ones being taken when repairing old mill dams; not that the inhabitants could be induced, on any terms, to eat them, or even eels; I still hoped to succeed in taking some, having formed our tackle so as to insure success.

We ordered dinner, as we had done the preceding day, early. Tired of sitting in doors, I took my gun, and killed, hobbling about, two brace of snipes, and was returning home, when one of the pointers made a very steady point. I perceived by his manner, that it was not a snipe: came up to him, was backed by the other dog, and they footed their game. I apprehended it would prove black game, not that I had seen any near here, but could not conceive what it could be, till coming into some thinly-dispersed, but stunted alders, they both made their point complete; a wild duck flushed, which I fired at, and saw drop. The dogs still maintained their point as usual; and, walking on to pick up the duck, lest he should get into the drains and give me some trouble to recover him, another rose, with which I was equally successful with my other barrel.

I got them both loaded again, and, finding one to be a mallard, and the other a duck, by no means full grown, I naturally concluded that the team^s

* Team or brood, is a technical term for a family of ducks.

was dispersed; and, hunting carefully after them, soon found by the dogs footing, that there were several scents. After hunting the dogs for nearly two hours, I killed three brace and a half; and had I not been rather afraid of increasing my lameness, than of keeping Captain W. and the dinner waiting, I believe I might have killed many more. Leaving the ducks and snipes, I now returned home, much pleased with this unexpected day's sport.

After dinner, leaving Mr. Gerrard, we got into the Gibraltar, and floated gently down the river, trolling as we went on: I killed a small pike, and afterwards a good trout of about four pounds. The evening was now very favourable, and having nineteen trimmers set, we had great expectations: Matt had also very properly attached to our vessel a trunk, in the shape of a small boat, which I had ordered to preserve such fish as we might take alive; as we had frequently more than we could use: these, when sent to neighbours, were often ungraciously received; and as we sometimes might want when strangers came, this mode always ensured us a supply. At the two first we found nothing, the baits torn off with the same or more violence than before: at the third we found a handsome pike, of about six pounds; I never saw a finer fish. From the remaining trimmers, out of which I saved four pike and two eels not much hurt, I took six pike and nine eels. The pike were none of them so large as the past we had taken; the eels were about a pound or better, one excepted, which was very large, and gave us some trouble to get him, having twisted himself round some roots; but, having now the boat, we secured him; and, weighing him, found him near five pounds, and as white as silver.

I began to consider whether the fish, that had so frequently twisted themselves off my tackle, might not be still larger eels than those taken, and not lampreys; but I have every reason to think, that no eel, however large, could have twisted the very strong wires I had made use of into such forms as we had constantly found them; and am still of opinion that they were lampreys, which, I apprehend, must be a much stronger fish than an eel, and should have been much pleased to have taken only one.

We rowed slowly up the river, leaving those trimmers that had lost their baits rebaited most carefully; the rest we took up, as we did not want fish, and saw no great sport was to be expected, except getting a supply of trimmers, or taking a lamprey. In trolling, the bait springing over a deep, dark hole, under the bough of an old tree that overhung the river, I felt a fish strike with great force. We allowed the boat to drive on shore, and anchored her; and I began to play my fish, which had made no second exertions. I soon found I was likely to have some sport with my antagonist, whose advantages were considerably increased by the situation of the place I had been obliged to land in, which was covered by a great quantity of wood. With infinite pains, after despairing more than once, I landed him. He proved to be a trout, between five and six pounds. He was well hooked, but not gorged; I hoped to save him, and took the hook out very carefully, and put him to the former in the little boat or trunk; and, without more sport, we returned home.

August 10. — Morning boisterous.

Captain W. quite pleased with the amusements he had partaken of, as well as with the scenery and rural style of life we followed, required no inducements to prevail on him to stay, and join our party to Loch Guiacks and Loch Laggan; but, having previously formed engagements in the Lothians, before he knew the relish he should acquire for Alpine scenery, being, till he came to Raits, no sportsman, he was obliged to proceed. No will was wanting, and consequently no entreaties could avail. We parted, therefore, promising faithfully to write to each other weekly.

August 11. — Shot down the Spey; saw a cloud of wild ducks; killed a very beautiful bird called a sea magpie, a sea-gull, and a brace of snipes: each of the *tercels* also killed one, after excellent flights. Fished for trout up the river, and killed three brace of large ones, above a pound each; and they afforded the best sport I had had: killed two pike, about four and five pounds each. Raised some *rattlers*, such as I never saw before, and at length hooked one, which obliged me to bring the boat to anchor. In a

quarter of an hour, with great difficulty, and by the help of the landing net, boated him. He weighed above five pounds and a half.

Trolled in the evening, hooked three pike, killed a brace, and came home to supper, after setting some trimmers, highly pleased with my day's sport.

August 12. — Day gloomy, but fair; took up a good pike at one of the trimmers; the baits were taken off the rest: killed some small trout, and trolled after dinner; but the evening turned cold and boisterous: hooked however a large pike, but he broke his hold. Killed two brace of smaller ones, and set some strong trimmers with swivels, the former having been twisted, apparently by immense eels.

Killed four pike, seventeen trout.

August 13. — Day fair, but rather windy: got pike-baits and worms to fish on some lakes below the house, said to be swarming with immense pike. With great difficulty got the boat on the smallest of them, and, in half an hour, killed six pike, of about two or three pounds weight. Took up the fox-hounds *Promoter* and *Conqueror*, each having a small pike. Flew the hawks, and killed a brace and a half of wild-ducks. One of these flights could not be less than six or eight miles; the duck, which proved an old mallard, took the air, and went almost out of sight, but was so pressed by both of the falcons, that she came out of the air like a shot, and attempted to take refuge in the splash; but, being prevented, she was flushed and raked*.

August 14. — Day charming; went to church, and heard a very well-delivered sermon from Mr. Anderson. This gentleman, though a Lowlander, by absolute perseverance, has taught himself the Erse language, in which he preaches a sermon, after delivering one in English.

It appeared to me, that the men came here to eat tobacco, and the women to sleep. I may venture to affirm, that a tax on sleeping females at church would bring in, from this parish, a pretty revenue.

Three Highland lairds, whom Lawson had, in my absence, received ci-

* *Raked*, a term in falconry, when the hawk seizes the quarry, and flies away with it.

ilities from, on my account, and had invited, dined with me, and I found them very well informed men.

August 15.—Day hazy. Breakfasted at Kingraig, and, attended by Captain J. Macpherson of Indereschy (a very accomplished gentleman, who had been unfortunately severely wounded in America), and Capt. M'Intosh of Kingraig, we attempted to fish Loch Alva; but, from some mistake in Captain M'Pherson's not procuring baits (owing, I believe, to his having favoured me with his agreeable company at Raits till too late over night, and then forgot them), we had no sport. Dined, and passed a very pleasant day at that delightful spot, *Indereschy*, whose beauties far surpass any thing I have seen in any country: wood, water, hanging banks, mountains, rocks, and extensive meadows, all conspire to form this a charming scene. Flew a duck and a snipe, merely to stretch the hawks sails. Having, from the unfavourable ground, no prospect of success, was introduced, after being comfortably dressed and refreshed, to Captain Macpherson's father, a very plain, respectable, elderly gentleman. Mrs. Macpherson, who unfortunately, from illness, could not leave her room, is a native of Durham; I regretted much not seeing her. Nothing, surely, could be wanting to make this country (in summer) a paradise, but the company of an amiable lady. Remained at Indereschy during the evening.

Returns; seventeen trout.

August 16.—Morning heavenly, Aurora peeping over the immense Cairngorms. Went up again to Loch and Glen Ennoch. After a pretty good walk of three hours, we ascended, and saw the lake below us, said to be full of *char*, and on the cloud-capt mountains above are found *ptarmigants**, *cairvanes*†, and some *dottrel*. We dined at possibly the coldest spring in the world, running most rapidly, and had very good punch made with shrub, brought from Indereschy.

After resting a little, we proceeded, the attendants taking care, according

* *Ptarmigants*, a species of white moor-game.

† *Cairvanes*, a species of white hare.—*Vide* British Zoology.



to my former directions, that our cavalry should not eat. The pernicious quality of the grass, or bent, growing here, is a circumstance not exactly accounted for, but the horses, it seems, feeding on it, are absolutely poisoned. I observed, on its edges, it appeared very inviting, but will not vouch for the correctness of the report: if true, however, the animal in this place equally suffers; for, if tempted to *descend* to taste the inviting verdure, that grows beneath, greener than an emerald, his feet slip, and he is whirled down this dreadful precipice, and dashed to pieces. Thus, with the immortal Virgil, we may say, *+ Where is it*.

"Incidet in Scyllam, cupiens evitare Carybdem."

A number of the skeletons of horses, which have perished here, are to be seen below, and, in some degree, evidence this fact, so singular, that its parallel, I believe, is not to be met with elsewhere in Britain.

This poisoning quality of the grass growing here, so fatal to the horses, may possibly arise from its tufty, hard nature, which resembles a sponge; and, thus swelling in the stomach of the animal, like clover in cows, destroys it*.

Saw several broods of ptarmigants, but the rain, coming on suddenly, prevented our proceeding, and we returned, after killing three brace and a half: the tercel killed the same number. They were much frightened at the hawks, which they must sometimes see, and their defence we found was, when pressed, to fly under the large loose rocks; so that we found some difficulty to retrieve them. Terriers really would be useful, for many we shall lose, when we come here to hawk, for want of them.

The rain now came on dreadfully, and, very soon, we had not a dry thread left; but before my powder was quite wet, I contrived to kill a dot-

* I have since heard, how true I know not, (Mr. Lawson is my author,) that an animal, similar to a large mouse, inhabits these mountains, and, coming over the bent, leaves a noxious slime, which, except early in the day, has not that pernicious effect, it being afterwards exhaled by the sun. This story I take to be quite fabulous.

urel: had my powder from the first been dry, I could have killed, at least, seven or eight brace. I have almost seen all the ptarmigants' ground in Scotland; but never saw above ten or a dozen in a day before, except in the farther parts of the Cairngorms, where they are tolerably numerous; but here they swarm. The captain's servant got rather too much shrub, which had such an effect upon him, that I was really afraid he would have broken every bone in his skin. He often fell, not on the softest ground, and, had I not plunged in, and dragged him across a rivulet, that, by the rain, had become very rapid, and, which he attempting to ford, had been carried down, I am sure he would have been drowned, or dashed to pieces against the angular rocks, that are here as sharp as razors.

Walked on to Indereschy, and arrived there long before the cavalry: being dressed, sat down to a plain but hospitable board; and, after dinner, finished a *magnum* a piece of most excellent claret, with the captain, a clergyman playing his part very well.

Among the rocks, searching for ptarmigants, I had really very nearly broken my neck: I therefore caution all my followers to act with more circumspection, as any fracture of a limb, in such a situation, would be of the most unpleasant consequence.

Killed seven ptarmigants, one dottrel — hawks.

August 17. — Day fine. Returned, and, with Mr. Anderson, took a view of Raitts. The beauties of this place are equal to any in the world, but differ from those of Indereschy, to which it is generally esteemed superior. They are both, however, in my opinion, without competitors. A place near here, called *Fonness*, has also many fine cascades and other charms. After dinner Mr. A. left me, and I set my bullet-gun so well, as, at two hundred yards, to be certain of hitting a card.

Orders. — "That *Jonas* and *Jack*, with one of the baggage-waggons, do proceed with the necessary apparatus, as by order, to *Avenmore*, and there remain for farther instructions."

Intending to pass three days' encampment in the neighbourhood of Loch

Baugh, necessities were ordered to be packed up accordingly. Lawson, with a cast of hawks, and myself, went on horseback, with a brace of pointers, that were fond of water, intending to fly ducks.

The ride between Raits and Avemore is delightful, the road pleasing, and differing from all the Highland ones, not in the least hilly; but the declivities more gentle slopes. On the right you have immense hills: in the centre of the vale runs the noble, winding, rapid Spey, having innumerable copices of birch on its banks. The opposite hills are covered, almost to the very skies, with immense forests of fir, and Glenmore and Rothemurcos woods, about seven or eight miles broad, and twelve or fourteen long, give a melancholy shade to the pearl-coloured mountains around them.

The forest, formed by Glenmore and Rothemurcos, I have before observed, produces some noble fir-trees, and is an asylum for stags and roebucks; in it are also some eyries of *goss-hawks*, some of which we saw.

This hawk is very rare: I never met with any in England that were wild*; they are a short-winged hawk, being in the same proportion to a sparrow-hawk, (of which kind they are), as a falcon is to a merlin.

They fly at the bolt, and the falcon is excellent for hares, rabbits, hems, and wild-ducks; the tercel for game.

Mr. Grant, to whom belongs the property of the forest of Rothemurcos, did me the honour to show me many civilities, when I was some years since in the neighbourhood of Inverness. He has not been much in Strathspey since I came; but has shown me that attention which demands my best acknowledgments.

Came to Avemore, but, it hurts me to say, I found the inn I now put up at differing from those I had passed, it being but very indifferently kept: the rooms very dirty; whereas, when I was here before, no inn could be in better order. The landlord, a Mr. M'Gregor, is himself an agreeable man, civil and attentive, and very desirous of giving the utmost satisfaction to

* When I managed the confederate hawks of England, I always got them from Germany.

his guests. The provisions, too, were tolerable; mutton particularly good, and the claret and cheese incomparable.

After having refreshed myself, I sent for my host, who, with great significance, gave me to understand that he was a fisher, and corroborated the accounts I had continually received of the immense pike to be caught in Loch Baugh, or the *Coxes' Lake*, so called, I suppose, from those animals coming to drink there when the rivulets are dry.

After much conversation, in which he took every opportunity of assuring me of his excellence as a fisher, he undertook to procure baits, and to meet me, giving proper directions to Jonas, who was told to call there for orders, and whom he was to conduct to this lake, only three miles from Avemore: not supposing it possible that any mistake could arise, Lawson and myself proceeded across the moor. Saw some old black cocks, a fine brood, and several wild-ducks, none of the latter we could conveniently fly. The falcon, by accident, having laid in a duck*, killed a black cock; and, turning to our left, we came to *Loch Baugh*, on the edges of which lake I formerly had had some noble flights at black game; but, at that time, being a keen falconer, never enquired whether there was any fish in these very beautiful lakes, which I now find abound.

This sheet of water is uncommonly irregular in its shape, forming seven or eight different creeks or basons, where the pike lay very commodiously, changing their holds according to the wind.

The water is uncommonly clear, the bed chiefly gravelly and stony; and, in most parts, exceedingly deep: and, what is very extraordinary, it has not a single weed to disturb the fisher.

The irregular rising grounds around it, chiefly covered with very large weeping birches, and the edges with very tall ling, in full flower, gave it a most beautiful appearance.

I passed some time exploring the best places for trolling, waiting for my

* A term in falconry, when the quarry, pursued by the hawk, has taken refuge, either in cover or in ducking hawking, has got into some splash or pool.

landlord and the camp equipage, in which was contained my whole apparatus for fishing, but to no purpose.

Took the road we expected they must come, and, at length, saw our landlord, who informed me, that his boasted fishing had produced, in four hours, two baits. There was no remedy, but the hopes of his succeeding better; and, Jonas not being heard of, I supposed some loose nail, or other trivial circumstance had detained him; the landlord assuring me that he had given him directions four hours before to stop at a small white house on his left hand, on the military road leading to Inverness, and only two miles from Avemore.

The evening is the best time for fishing, and, as it was now only three o'clock, I determined to go up to the hills to fly the hawks, in order simply to give them meat: the day was warm and close; however, we, at length, found some curlews. Succeeded with one hawk; Lawson kept the heights, trying for another flight, I came down the mountain towards our intended encampment, and found one of the attendants who had come forward with our two live baits; but no account of Jonas. At length we heard that such a waggon, as we described ours to be, and which, differing very materially in its shape and neatness from any in this country, could not be mistaken, had passed three hours before for Dalmagary. Thus, though every thing had been attentively conducted for this expedition, still some demon seemed always to interfere and prevent my sport of pike-fishing.

To save time, and, if possible, to stop the waggon somewhere, that I might take out my fishing-tackle, I went on full speed, leaving the attendant who knew Lawson well, to tell him the disaster, and to desire M'Gregor to wait my return, or to shift for themselves as they could, conceiving I might ride some miles before I overtook Jonas.

I had not gone a mile over a road, through hanging birch, equal to the New Road at Islington, but ten times more beautiful, and which, in fact, in some degree, consoled me for my disappointment, when, making fresh enquiries, I found that, fortunately, my horse, having more intuitive knowledge than his driver, had turned restive at the foot of a hill, and would not

move, inflexible to all Jonas's admonitions, and the person I was enquiring about was himself very civilly going with two shelties, harnessed, to assist him. Thus fortunately, by the obstinacy of Dragon, my camp equipage was stopped and brought back; whereas, had he gone on, every part of this scheme would have been totally defeated.

On enquiry, the landlord had told Jonas, a very intelligent man and steady servant, but a perfect stranger to the country, to stop at the first white house on his right, which was seventeen miles off, instead of saying the first on the left, which was only two.

Though I was not very well satisfied with this mistake, which had lost me some time, I dined very heartily; and having chosen a most heavenly green spot, of about three acres, at the end of a little valley, every way surrounded with hanging birches, and about one hundred and fifty yards from the lake, for the ground of encampment. I proceeded, trolled, and soon raised three fish, but they all broke their hold.

The landlord arriving, and having, by the assistance of another person, procured eight or nine more fine baits; though near dark, I set my fox-hounds, which went off with a gentle breeze.

Returned to camp and supped at the tent, where, having ordered my bed to be made, I found, to my astonishment, that there was none! I leave any sportsman to judge of my feelings. I had given (to prevent any mistakes of M'Kennon, unacquainted with camps) to Jonas, the day before, my cot, and had specified the linen, &c. which I would have go with it; but it seems, after I had left Raits, the one wishing a larger a quantity of bed clothes should be sent than I had given out, and the other maintaining those were the specified articles I had ordered, they quarrelled, and the ultimatum of this dispute was, that I should prefer sleeping on the turf.

What to do—once more all my ideas of rising early, and fishing, totally baffled—the inn three miles off—my horses at a distance at picquet—rain coming on, &c. at length I determined to take Jonas's bed, and make him sleep on the sod. Some better sort of tenants, however, who had with great civility attended me, on seeing my distress, immediately brought down a

feather-bed; and, having given them a bowl of excellent punch, made of lime shrub, an article not growing here, and they of course unacquainted with it, I dismissed them, and never slept more comfortably.

Returns of this day: hawks, one black cock; nine trout.

At three I awoke and beat the *revellie*.

Thursday morning most heavenly: was soon dressed, without the assistance of a friseur, having effectually got quit of that unnecessary trouble by curtailing my hair, and proceeded to troll with live bait, and soon found a fish strike; gave him time, hooked him, and soon found I had to do with a fine fellow. In a few minutes *Conqueror** came across me in full cry, and with infinite difficulty I got clear of him, for I had enough to do with the fish I had hooked; and, had they both got foul, they must inevitably have broken me.

The situation I was in, being a confined bay, and perceiving *Conqueror* to have a very large fish at him, and in dread every moment that they should cross each other, I worked, with much difficulty, about a hundred yards down the lake, and, by the assistance of Mr. Lawson, ever keen, ever ready, and ever willing, we landed the very best fed pike I ever saw, whose weight was not so large as, by his running, we expected; about sixteen pounds. We immediately flew to assist *Conqueror*, who was in a very deep hole, about fifty yards from shore; by wading, we threw the line and got the hook well entangled round the float, and began to play him; found him still stronger than the one I had just taken; at length landed him where we had done the former; though this fish was much stronger, he was less by about half a pound; two finer, for colour and condition, were never seen.

Examined the other hounds, and took, after very good sport, another of twelve pounds from *Promoter*; the rest without baits; we rebaited them, and came to camp perfectly well satisfied with our morning's sport, and ate a most comfortable breakfast.

Tried for some black game, but, unfortunately, the appearance of

* One of the fox-hounds.

showers had made me leave my rifle at home: found some old black cocks near Duhnion wood, into which they flew. Lawson roused a fine stag, which, had I had my rifle, probably I could have killed: he stood within forty yards, very boldly looking at us. We took a wide range round the hills, and the wind being too high for flying, came and had a pretty good dinner and excellent wine at Avemore, and returned at seven at night to Loch Baugh. Trolled, and in one creek killed five pike, from four to six pounds each, before dark, and killed two of the same weight with the fox-hounds; then returned to camp to supper, leaving the fox-hounds well baited.

Returns; ten pike and eleven trout.

August 19.—Day pleasant. The great number of letters I had to answer, and various other occupations, prevented my leaving home; and a party, consisting of four ladies and five gentlemen dined with me. We passed the day very agreeably, and had the pleasure from the ladies, one of whom was an excellent singer, of several Erse songs. Retired early to rest, after I had given orders for the encampment to be put in motion by four o'clock the next morning. Matt to attend the boats, baggage waggons, &c. in which provisions, liquors, and ammunition of every kind, for one week, together with guns, nets, &c. were to be carried. *Crosly* to proceed with the hawks.

August 20.—Mr. Gerrard and myself crossed the Spey, and paid a visit to Mr. Parkhurst, whom we found much recovered and in good spirits. Recrossed the ford, higher up the river, and lost our road. Leaped a stone wall, which Mr. Gerrard likewise effected, keeping a true sportsman's seat. Beyond Pitmain I found Mr. and Mrs. Robert McPherson very politely waiting to show us the way to Dalheely. This family having been some time absent from home, very candidly told us, that, to insure a good dish of fish, we must catch it. In crossing the Calder, the carriage, on which the boat was placed, stuck fast, and it required a tedious operation to get it out, which, however, was at length effected; and, as we advanced through the *Ness of Craigow*, the breeze being confined, came down like a whirlwind,

which made it difficult for the Devil, though a very well-weathered tercel, to keep the fist.

Mrs. M'Pherson proceeded to Dalhenly; we came on gently, and amused ourselves with admiring the black, stupendous rock of Craigow, which, though very wild, is perfect placidity when compared to that of Glen Ennoch.

From this craig are taken the hawks which bear its name, and are so dignified in the annals of falconry; they tell a good story of these, amusing, but equally absurd as many others, and not worth repeating.

Here we took out our telescope to see if the boats were coming forward, but, not discerning them, we thought it prudent to return, especially as Loch Cluny, which we intended to have fished, we found, from its boggy borders, could not be come at in a boat. We, therefore, determined to fish Loch Uric; and, returning to meet the boats, amused ourselves for some time with admiring the fine echo at Craigow, which, when the wind is not high, will re-echo *thirteen* times; as it was, I never heard one so fine, repeating distinctly *seven* or *eight* times. I purpose having a musical instrument played here on some calm day, and the effect, no doubt, will be equal to a band. A concert, like the celebrated one at Westminster Abbey, performed under this roof, would alarm all the Highlands.

We apprehended some accident had happened to the boats; however, they at last came up, and we found they had been delayed only by the hilly road and the wind. Having set down the hawks, all hands fell to work and got the *Ville de Paris* launched; our next business was to arrange our party.

Mr. Gerrard engaged with another Mr. M'Pherson, who had joined us, to go and take a flight at snipes with the hawks. In the interim Mr. Robert M'Pherson undertook to row the *Ville de Paris*. His weight, at least eighteen stone, at first made some impression upon her; but his legs being too long, and the wind very high, Mr. Gerrard politely offered his assistance, all being equally concerned in the common cause; like Tartars, fishing for our dinner, use and pleasure.

The wind continued very high, and, coming in gusts, we soon found it

was dangerous. I attempted to fish with a pike fly, but without success; I then tried an artificial minnow, waiting for Matt to bring up his live baits, when the party was to divide. Had no better success, and was in imminent danger, having shipped a wave; and, if I had not taken the management of the helm, I verily believe we should have gone to the bottom. Ran her ashore; and finding that my idea of going up the river in the boat was feasible, at least worth trying, got her across the loch, and through a gut which communicated with the river Spey. Having now received eighteen of the finest baits I ever saw, we parted; the rest of the company sincerely, but interestedly, wishing us good sport.

As I always prefer trolling, Mr. M'Pherson took my trout rod, with a pair of excellent flies, and soon rose a good fish, but missed it; in a short time, however, he was more fortunate, for he killed a very good trout of about a pound, and, soon after, two more, one of near two pounds, and the other of a pound. This almost tempted me to change my mode of fishing and take to the fly, which, not being so killing for great fish, I looked upon as childish sport. Rowing on about a mile, which was sometimes very arduous, owing to the repeated gusts not being abated, I felt a fish strike; I returned the compliment, hooked him, and, with some difficulty, the landing net not being put into the boat, brought him on shore; a handsome pike.

I soon killed another, and with these, and our three trout, we thought we had a very fine dish of fish for a dozen persons, the number of ourselves and servants.

This river winds to such a degree, that we found we went four miles by water to make one by land; but our sport increased, Mr. M'Pherson killed six fine large trout, and, at a turn, I hooked a monstrous fish, which gave me much sport, and some trouble; for though I had very strong pike-tackle, I found he was not to be trifled with. I would have given ten guineas for a landing net. Matt, now grown web-footed, amphibious, and half an otter, plunged in, but my antagonist made one desperate effort, and ran directly under the *Ville de Paris*, which prevented my availing myself of my tackle; in short, in the exertion, the top of my rod broke, but I was not much

alarmed, being confident my fish was weak; I drew him by degrees towards the shore, and Matt landed him; a fine, fat salmon.

Mr. M'Pherson had not another rise; I killed a fine pike, three large trout, and one salmon; and we did not get to Dalhenly till past nine o'clock.

Mr. Gerrard, who had witnessed the disaster at Loch Uric, it seems, had looked round from the rock above, and seeing no boat, nor from the distance any gut, had entertained some melancholy doubts, which, upon not finding us on his return, increased every instant; however, on Mrs. M'Pherson's account, he, with his usual good sense, concealed them.

We sat down to a very hospitable board, and a very acceptable dinner, or rather supper, not having tasted any thing since breakfast; and then Mr. Gerrard mentioned his fears for us, and gave an account of his sport: the hawks had killed all they saw, two brace of snipes.

August 22.—After having had a most refreshing night's rest, in the very best-made bed I ever slept in, rose to look at the morning, and found it rather ominous, the wind not having abated. However, we prepared ourselves by a hearty breakfast for a long day, and having sent the boats on before, proceeded for Lake Crunichan; the day mending, by the time we got there, became very desirable, except that it was too windy for fishing.

While the boat was launching and the fox-hounds preparing, I took a turn with the pointers and hawks: Pero soon found what we wanted, and we had some flights at snipes; unfortunately *Duchess*, the falcon, killed a snipe behind a rock, and Pero coming on her by accident, made her carry; she went down the wind, and after three hours search Crosly could neither see nor hear any thing of her, though he expected some account from the boatmen or waggoners, as they likewise were down wind.

After having trolled to little purpose all round the lake, one of the most likely I ever saw for large pike, killing only a brace of small ones, I left the boat and fox-hounds under the care of Dr. M'Pherson, who was desirous to recover the credit of the lake, and joined Crosly, whom I found still at a loss concerning the falcon. Mr. Gerrard came to us, and we killed with the

tercel a brace and a half of snipes. I flew him the oftener, judging that the falcon was not far off, and this was the surest method of bringing her up. Not succeeding, I hoisted a signal in answer to Dr. M'Pherson, who wished that the other boat and baggage should proceed, the road being truly deplorable. Having a general idea of the situation of Aberarder, where we were to dine or sup, under the hospitable roof of Mr. Mitchel, I took a brace and a half of young pointers and my double-barrel gun, and, as we walked on, found some snipes, which I killed; but from such ground, bogs, and stones, heaven preserve us! After walking about four miles, Mr. Gerard, who ardently wished to see Loch Laggan, had his wishes completely gratified by a view of this fine expanse of water, under the most favourable circumstances, as the setting sun now gave it a warmth of colouring which produced an effect truly sublime.

We saw our apparatus far behind, and making no way, moved on slowly, and crossed in upon Dr. M'Pherson and the cavalry, following a track, for it could not be called a road, not bearing the mark of any human being having ever travelled that way.

When I went to Aberarder before, I shot through the woods, and not knowing this communication, had imagined that to so decent a farm there must be a cart road, but I was deceived, as light burdens are brought to it on horses, and heavy ones are put into a boat at the foot of the lake, and are brought up by water. Had I known this circumstance I should have sent my baggage in *creels*. The only mode we could now adopt was that of hiring four Highlanders, two of whom were said to be excellent boatmen: these two were to bring up our dinner provisions and articles of value in the *Ville de Paris*, and they were desired to lose no time, our appetites being very keen, and it was then past seven o'clock. They had two miles to walk and four to row, a severe pull in any Highland boat; but the celerity with which the *Ville de Paris* tripped over the waves made us hope that every thing would be landed by nine at farthest. Matters being thus arranged, I took a turn out of the road, and in a swamp the dogs stood; by their footing I soon saw it was not for snipes. They were at length up to

their birds, and I flushed a brood of black game: they were not very forward, and as it was early in the season, I took down my gun, though Mr. Gerrard was very desirous to obtain a specimen. We proceeded, but really thought we should never reach our intended place of abode, and so little was the road or track known, that Dr. M'Pherson, who had resided fifteen years at Aberarder, was obliged to take a guide from a small cottage.

At length we arrived safe at the farm, where we found a good fire, and every comfortable accommodation. A fine sheep, five years old, had been killed, upon the certainty of the encampment being near at hand; but as it was so fresh, and we were amply provided with cold provisions, which we expected by the boat, we resolved not to use any part of it that night. Crosly and Matt came in at nine o'clock, having recovered the falcon, which had been where I imagined; from them we also learnt that every thing requisite had been put on board the boat, and that they certainly would soon arrive.

We passed our time joyously, singing by the fire-side, till ten o'clock, when, growing impatient, we sent to the lake side, and desired the people would hail the boat, as it was now too dark to discern her. At half past ten, an account was brought to us, that the boatmen were distinctly heard coming on. This gave us infinite satisfaction; the cloth was laid, and every thing prepared for supper; but to our great disappointment they came in soon after, most thoroughly wet and empty handed, and immediately explained the cause. The boat, it seems, was very heavy laden, and though it was calm when they went off, after they had proceeded about a mile, in a bay, where the wind comes in eddies, by pulling, probably with too much violence, and not humouring the wave, they cut through, it and shipped some water; another wave soon succeeding, this addition to the weight already in her filled her up to the gunnel; the boatmen argued, one was for throwing every thing overboard, in order to save themselves; the other was for running her on shore, which, from the bold rocky border, and the incredible fury of the waves, dashing against it, threatened inevitable destruction both to them and the vessel. The wind blowing in shore was the most fortunate

event imaginable, for, during their confusion and dispute, the boat imperceptibly drew near the rock, and, a prodigious wave at once filling her, she sunk immediately; Duncan M'Pherson, one of the boatmen, with great coolness threw himself in, as soon as she touched the bottom, for it was only five feet deep, to recover all the effects remaining in her, conceiving them to be of great value; which, in fact they were, the fishing tackle alone being worth fifty pounds. A bag of shot, weighing twenty-eight pounds, which had been injudiciously, but fortunately, placed on the deck, had slipped off, and decreased the weight; while the boatmen were half swimming and scrambling about, the wind fell for a few minutes, which time they employed in taking several articles out of the water, that had floated towards the shore.

The gun-powder, consisting of about one pound, being well wrapped in brown paper, and rolled round with a quantity of tow to clean the guns, escaped better than we imagined; having at first apprehended that it was rendered quite useless, I was upon the point of sending off an express for some, as I wished much to kill a white or blue hare, as a specimen for Mr. Gerrard; and at this season they are the colour of fine blue rabbits with shades of white*.

After the consternation, which such an unexpected disaster had occasioned, was subsided; recollection took place, we consoled ourselves that these poor men were not lost, and set about unpacking the articles they had brought with them, at the same time sending off all the hands we could spare, to bring up those left on shore in the cavity of the rock. On examination, we found that nothing had escaped undamaged, and many articles were totally destroyed; and amongst the rest my dressing case, a very neat and uncommon one. It was after midnight before the last detachment re-

* A peculiar species of hare, which is never found but on the summits of the highest mountains; it seldom mixes with the common-kind, which are plentiful in the vales; is less than them; its limbs more slender, and rather shorter; its flesh more delicate; is very agile, and full of frolic when tamed; is fond of honey, and other sweet things; prognosticates a storm by eating its own dung; in a wild state does not run an end, but protects itself by taking shelter underneath large loose stones; during summer its predominant colour is grey; the leverets have a bluish appearance.

turned from the rock, and having contented ourselves with broiling our trout, and drinking a few bottles of porter, we were glad to retire to rest; but, I had first the satisfaction to know that the boat, which I apprehended had been dashed to pieces, had been raised, and the water being cleared out, safely drawn on shore.

August 23.—In the morning we found the wind as high as the day before, which made me give up all thoughts of fishing.

Our plan for the day was as follows: I proposed to ascend the dreadfully high mountains, which almost overhang Aberarder, threatening by their appearance of falling, total perdition to the town; there I hoped to kill a whitish hare, and some other specimens of game which abound; also imagined I might obtain some good views, and gather some botanical plants, or choice flowers. Dr. M'Pherson, being a good angler, undertook to catch us some fish for dinner. Crosly, with a cast of gentle hawks, for the goshawk was still ungovernable, and, I fear, will never be *manny**, attended me; the rest of our party consisted of Mr. A. Mitchel, Mr. Gerrard, Lawson, and a herdsman, who knew these mountains. Having supplied ourselves with a flask of rum, another of lime-juice, and some oat-cakes and cheese, we proceeded, Mr. Gerrard, at my request, though he had never fished with the fly, took the charge of a rod, as we meant in the evening to come by Corgarderder, said to be as wild as Glen Ennoch, and to have a lake at the foot of it, so full of trout, that the accounts we received exceeded all credibility. However, five or six had been taken, with as many hooks and flies, at one throw by Dr. M'Pherson.

We walked *fifteen* miles, in point of ground, and fatigue equal to *twenty*: it took us above four hours, though we were all, perhaps, as good walkers as any in Britain; and we only saw one brood of white game, which induced me to depart from my regulation to oblige Mr. Gerrard. The situation was tolerably safe for the hawks, as it lay under the wind, whereas, on the top it blew a hurricane. The falcon flew her bird well,

* A term in falconry for gentle and being well broken.

and killed; and, now having committed one trespass, we grew hardened in iniquity, and killed two brace with the Duchess and the Devil, who took to them very keenly.

At a distance, on the verge of these barren rocks, we saw four large stags, and regretted that we had no rifle, nor my stag-hound, which I had left at Aberarder; for, if we had been properly provided, we might soon have brought one to bay. As we proceeded, we met with several charming scenes, and got a view of the almost-unpassable road over the Coriarich; also discerned, at a distance, Ben Nevis, and other hills, whose names are not known, and whose northern sides are covered with quantities of snow-drifts. I saw several flocks of golden plover, and killed a brace and a half. At two o'clock we dined on our scanty fare, and drank our punch at a spring, said to be the coldest in the kingdom; but I tried it, and found it unequal to that of Glen Ennoch, the thermometer being at $45\frac{1}{2}$ Farenheit. Mr. Gerrard descended from the precipice to draw and to fish. I promised to call for him on my return, and, the day being now fine, we tried several *corrys** under wind, and found plenty of ptarmigants, also one white hare; but, unfortunately, though very near, I could not get a shot at her.

The mist came on at six o'clock, which obliged us to make the best of our way home, though said to be only *four* miles, lest we should lose ourselves on these inhospitable rocks and mountains. Surely such a descent was hardly ever passed by man. I repeatedly thought I should have broken my neck; nor did I get down the first half mile in less than an hour and forty minutes, the loose stones continually falling almost every step I took: I must here observe that, however still the day or night may be, scarce an instant passes without stones being seen or heard falling around you; this, one might naturally conceive, would fill up the valley, but it does not so happen: probably, indeed, in heavy rains, they are swept into the lake below, which will thereby, in time, become wider and shallower.

We looked carefully about the lake for Mr. Gerrard, and, not seeing

* A corry is an amphitheatre of rocks, consequently the game therein are protected from the wind.

him, concluded he was gone home; but it was the distance that deceived us; for, at length, we discerned him, reduced to about nineteen inches in stature, and barely perceptible. In coming up to him, I very narrowly escaped breaking my legs, or a more fatal accident; for, leaping on a stone, in order to cross a brook, my feet slipped in such a manner, that, had I not sprung in the air, I must have fallen on some fragments of rocks beneath; as, it was, I hurt myself very much. The herdsman, without shoes, walked unhurt, with his horny feet, to my utter astonishment, over the angular, sharp rocks, whilst my feet, though, from experience, I had ordered the strongest bear-soles to my shoes, were severely cut and bruised, and both my ankles mangled with the stones that repeatedly fell upon them.

Mr. Gerrard, having finished his different sketches, amused himself with fishing; and, as a proof how much trout abounded in this lake, in less than an hour he killed between two and three dozen: an expert angler might certainly have killed double the number in the same time.

We now proceeded homewards, though, I at first, intended to take a few throws, the guide assuring me we were only two miles and a half from Aberarder; but fortunately I determined to get home to see what Dr. M'Pherson had done; for we found the two miles and a half turn out at least *six*. The road ran through some fine birch and alder coppices, and occasionally offered us a view of several delightful water-falls, the rivulets being pretty full, from the rain that had fallen on the mountains: but so bad a road, except that from Ganamore to Aberarder, surely was never travelled: it took us more than two hours to walk our reputed two miles and a half, and it was absolutely dark before we got home.

After a most comfortable supper, a few refreshing glasses, and a good song from the Doctor, we all made the best of our way to bed, and, according to the vulgar saying, "slept without rocking."

Got up about five o'clock; day excellent: took one pike of nearly seven pounds from *Plato*; packed the fox-hounds up, intending to hawk across the moor, and to fish, after dinner. Trolled, and killed

four pike, much the same as those of the night before, and taken all (one excepted) in the same bay.

The pike here are unlike all others; they are of a lighter colour, but very fat, and as thick as long: run, after being hooked, about forty fathoms, and then, like the *whitling**, threw themselves above a yard out of the water.

All the fox-hounds were now got out but two; for one of which, Lawson, it seems, stripped, got it with difficulty, and found a good fish at him; the other could not be got in any way that we could devise. Breakfasted, and gave orders for the encampment to strike, and proceed for Loch Petulichge, under the care of Mr. M'Gregor, giving my rod and tackle to a man of very decent appearance, who promised to meet me, without fail, with them at Kenhurdy Ferry, and we proceeded on our way, by the edge of the lake, in order to find some black game and fly some ducks.

As we passed, we once more took a look at our remaining hound, which, we plainly saw, had altered his station, and, from his floating up wind, which then blew strong, we made no doubt but there must be an enormous fish at him.

Lawson, from some strange infatuation, had conceived an idea of taking it by swimming his horse, and, by the assistance of a long pole, he had procured with a hook, to disengage some other lines, he hoped to entangle it.

He had the day before, in conversation, told me of his exploits in swimming horses when a boy; and, I always understood from him, that, of late years, he had practised, and could swim very tolerably.

I laughed, as I well might, immoderately, at the idea, and surely so good a figure, when prepared, was never yet seen; he must have excited laughter even from the late Earl of Chesterfield. In he went: I thought before he had got out of his depth he manœuvred very awkwardly, the wind preventing me from cautioning him, and I plainly saw he would get a ducking. God be thanked! I had the prudence to lay aside most of my

* For *whitling*, see British Zoology.

fishing and shooting apparatus, which I had on me, in order to give him assistance, if requisite. He was soon, as I expected, when the horse began to swim, which he did not do by degrees, but instantaneously, thrown over.

To my astonishment and horror, he could not swim in the least, and the distance he was from me, made any efforts of mine appear fruitless. I threw off my coat while running, loaded with shot and my wheel: in I went as fast as possible, making a herdsman follow me with his plaid: I got near him. Lawson by this time had sunk once; I got close up to him, and threw the herdsman's plaid over him; but saw that he was so exhausted he could not catch it, and went down again: I advanced, half swimming, half touching, with one foot, on the shelf of a rock, and giving my hand to the herdsman, I prepared to seize him, when he came up. He again rose. I threw the plaid quite over him; but he seemed senseless, and sunk rather nearer, and struggled: fortunately I collected the only small remains of sense he had left, by calling out to him with all my might: I again threw the plaid so that it entirely covered him, and he entangled himself in it. My feelings, on my first throwing the plaid over him, and finding him unable to catch it, cannot be described: the losing a man, who had served me in the field, as a keen sportsman, and a companion, in many scenes we sportsmen undergo, and, as a servant, with unexampled rectitude, for many years; and seeing that man perishing immediately under my eyes, without any prospect of assisting him, but by means of the plaid, which was very precarious; for, had I swam, we must both inevitably have perished, made my distress exquisite; but happily, on my perceiving him catch at the plaid, it was immediately changed into joy. From his exhausted situation, I greatly feared he would lose his hold, which I perceived was slight; and, had either my feet or the herdsman's slipped, which it was a providence they did not, among these stony shelves, his safety would have been still doubtful. However, I at length got him dragged nearer, I caught hold of him, and sometimes swimming, scrambling, and wading, dragged him ashore, quite exhausted; but, in a little time, he recovered fast: one instant more would have inevitably decided his fate, and, had I not had the presence of mind I very fortunately had, while

running, of calling for the plaid, nothing could have saved him, and both possibly would have perished. Life is certainly precious, but no man knows what lengths he will naturally go to save a companion in distress. I needed not to dissuade him in future from swimming after fox-hounds. Taking my wet clothes on my back, I ran full speed to the tents, feeling myself the happiest man existing, having, by Divine Providence, had it in my power to save the life of a valuable servant. Got fresh clothes for myself, and procured some dry apparatus of mine for the nearly-drowned Lawson.

The horse, as soon as he had dismounted his rider, swam out, and came, it seems, full tilt, to the encampment, without saddle; those who were left there, not perceiving him wet, but without a saddle, could not conceive what could be the matter. Having caught him, I proceeded to Lawson, whom I found nearly recovered, but cold and sick. Taking a dram, and the wind assisting to dry such parts of our apparatus as we could not well change, we proceeded.

I shot three brace and a half of wild ducks, two brace of snipes, and a hare. The day coming on very rainy, dined at Avermore, after searching for the person who was to have met me at Kenhurdy in vain, not without a strange suspicion of his having a design to steal my rod; though, to be sure, I considered such a theft scarcely possible in this wild country.

When I got to Avermore, I sent for him. In answer, he said, that Jonas had taken it by mistake with the waggon, but sent the rest of my apparatus.

On my return to Raits, I found from Jonas, who, as well as myself, knew that he had received it, that it was a falsehood; and then plainly saw that my conjectures were too justly founded, and sent to Captain L. McIntosh, a justice of peace (who unfortunately did not act in that district): however, he deserves my best thanks for his exertions to recover it, though they did not succeed; the fellow having the insolence, before Mr. Lawson, and a Captain Shaw, who also interested himself, as did many others, to deny positively that he ever received it.

The value of this rod, the very best, I believe ever made in any country,

and a most exquisite piece of workmanship, might be about six guineas; but here, where no such thing can be procured, it was *invaluable*.

This fellow gave me a surfeit of these gentry, for no man could be better treated than he was; and, though he had no claims on me, I gave him some money, to drink his laird's health, at parting,

Returns; seven ducks, four snipes, one hare.

August 25. — Day sun-shiny, with a pleasant breeze. Eight gentlemen, my neighbours, did me the honour to dine here, who seemed much distressed at the behaviour of this fellow, who had been guilty of so very extraordinary a theft; and Mr. M'Gregor, steward to Sir James Grant, a man of consequence here, seemed determined to recover it.

There are rogues in all countries, but not more here than in other places: trifles they may steal, but thefts of consequence are seldom, I understand, known.

We dined on the largest of the pike, which proved very fat, and really excellent.

The sons of Colonel M'Pherson being very anxious to see hawking, and having a perfect recollection of my ideas at their age, I obtained a holiday for them. All hands were busy foraging for our camp, which was to be pitched the next day. Had very good sport, killing three brace of snipes and a couple of ducks.

RAITS.—GENERAL ORDERS.

Mr. Lawson will observe, that the encampment is to be pitched according to the plan given, without the least deviation.

Further; as the ancient mode of encamping seems greatly to excel the modern, he will follow that, as nearly as may be, for a model.

Jacques du Fouilloux, a celebrated writer of his age, on sporting, with much seriousness, describes all the requisites for the chace, and thus places and equips the jovial crew.

“ L'assemblée se doit faire en quelque beau lieu sous des arbres auprès d'une fontaine ou ruisseau, là en les veneurs se doiuent tous rendre pour

“ faire leur rapport. Cependant le Sommelier doit venir avec trois bons
 “ chevaux chargez d'instrumens pour arrouser le gosier, comme coutrets,
 “ barraux, barrils, flacons et bouteilles : les quelles doivent estre pleines de
 “ bon vin d'Arbois, de Beaume, de Chaloe, et de Grave: luy estant de-
 “ scendu du cheval, les metra rafraischir en l'eau, ou biens les pourra faire
 “ refroidir avec du Canfre : apres il est randa la nappe sur la verdure. Ce
 “ fait, le cuisinier s'en viendra charge de plusieurs bons harnois de gueule,
 “ comme jambons, langues de bœuf fumées, groins, oreilles de porc, de
 “ cervclats, eschinées, pieces de bœuf de saison, carbonnades, jambons de
 “ Mayence, pasteux, longes de veau froides couvertes de poudre blanche, et
 “ autres menus suffrages pur remplir le boudin lequel il metra sur la nappe.

“ Lors le Roy ou le Seigneur avec ceux de sa table est rendront leurs
 “ manteaux sur l'herbe, et se coucheront de costé dessus, beuvans, man-
 “ geans, rians et faisans grand chere.” And that nothing might be want-
 ing to render the entertainment of such a set of merry men complete, ho-
 nest Jacques adds:—“ Et s'il y a quelque femme de reputation en ce pays
 “ qui fasse plaisir aux compagnons, elle doit estre alleguée, et ses passages et
 remuemens de fesses, attendant le rapport a venir.”

But when our party sallies forth a hawking, shooting, and fishing, I
 would have our phaetons and gigs set off amply provided: the inspector-
 general, in order that no new-created sporting desires may remain unallayed,
 will follow the model of the similar encampments of our ancestors, so joy-
 ously described by Fouilloux, who says, “ Le Seigneur doit avoir se petite
 “ charrette, là ou il sera dedans, avec la Fillette agée de seize a dix sept
 “ ans, laquelle luy frotera la teste par les chemins. Toutes les chevilles et
 “ paux de la charrette doivent estre garnis de flacons et bouteilles, et doit
 “ avoir au bout de la charrette un coffre de bois, plein de coqs d'inde froide,
 “ jambons, langues de bœufs et autre bons harnois de gueule. Et si le temps
 “ se trouve un peu froid, il pourra faire porter son petit pavillon, et faire
 “ du feu dedans pour se chauffer, ou bien donner un coup en robe à la
 “ nymphe.”

RAITS.—August 26.

The hour is come, with pleasure crown'd,
Borne in eternal order round.

Hour! but gloomy and inauspicious.

Rous'd from my dreams, all bent on game,
I rise, and wander o'er the heath'ry plain;
Led by my dogs, from point to point I run,
Mark the stretch'd line, and raise my Spanish gun.
Ah! how I melt with pity when I spy,
On the soft moss, the flutt'ring blackcock lie:
His purple robes in gaudy lines appear,
And ev'ry feather varies here and there.

At eleven o'clock my career was rather checked, day coming on, as usual: at twelve continued rain.

I felt the misfortune, but bore it like a philosopher by means of my preservative, a very simple contrivance, which I recommend to every sportsman; and, by the assistance of Lawson, though both were soon wet to the skin, I killed, in my way to our ground of encampment, getting but very awkward shots, five brace of birds; but could neither hear nor procure any intelligence of the baggage. Got into a *bothée**, and the old lady adding some faggots of dry juniper, we got ourselves as dry and comfortable as our lodging and hostess (perfectly ignorant of any language but Erse) could make us. Waited till five, but still no account of the horses.

My landlady might be on the wrong side of forty-five, much wizened and dried by the smoke, but had a cheerful countenance, and, as is usual

* *Bothée*, or *sheelin*, is a cottage made of turf; the dairy-house where the Highland shepherds, or *grasiers*, live with their herds and flocks, and, during the fine season, make butter and cheese, gather juniper berries, which, in parts of the Highlands, abound, and sell for a good price. Their whole furniture consists of a few horn spoons, their milking utensils, a couch, formed of sods, to lie on, and a rug to cover them. Their food, oat-cakes, butter or cheese, and often the coagulated blood of their cattle, spread on their bannocks: their drink, milk, whey, and sometimes, by way of indulgence, whisky. Such dairy-houses are common to most mountainous countries; those in Wales are called, *hafodlái*, or summer-houses; those in the Swiss Alps, *senes*.

with most ladies, a prodigious desire of conversing, which was, for the reasons already given, totally denied us.

At length an itinerant soldier, discharged from the fencibles, and driven from these wild moors by the weather, came in, and acted as interpreter, and by him I made my proposals to become this lady's guest for the evening. It was now past five, and a dreadful rain. No encampment to be seen; eight Highland miles home; in the very heart of game; my powder, which I had been preparing, well dried; shot sufficient in my holsters for a day's sport; my dogs well fed on two cheeses and a large bowl of milk:— Could there, to a sportsman, be any better measure adopted?

Matters thus adjusted, she procured me a bowl of her best milk, to which I added a flask of very strong Jamaica rum; turned out of my cañteen some ham and chicken, biscuits and Cheshire cheese, and, with fresh fuel, we became very merry.

In the interim, I dispatched directly a herdsman to Raits, with orders to bring a bottle of rum, porter, and provisions, clean linen, &c. and with further orders, that the encampment should be formed by seven the next day. This my itinerant soldier interpreted to the herdsman.

The soldier went away; Lawson was to sleep in the next bothée. The punch, and other causes (probably the fire not a little contributing), occasioned my landlady to come much nearer to me, and we became very familiar. I shall never forget the state of the house, its furniture, &c. but, nevertheless, I found some charms I had not expected. At this instant, who should announce the appearance of the column coming down the mountain but Lawson, who, it seems, had not so flattering a prospect for the evening as myself. Except from some private reasons, I was not dissatisfied.

The encampment, led by Captains Balacroon and Fonness, with nine baggage horses, arrived on their ground at half past six, and, very fortunately, it then became fair, and continued a fine evening. All hands were at work, and the pioneers and camp-colourmen were very alert, and we were soon under canvass.

A hodge podge, prepared at Raits, of moor-game, killed by the hawks,

which, before the rain came on, had been fortunate; mutton and bacon were put on the fire in the kitchen bothée; I got dry things; Balacroon fished with the seine, and killed in ten minutes, at the tent door, a small salmon, and as many trout as would have fed double our number. At eight o'clock dinner was announced in the dining-room—it consisted of

A hodge podge.

REMOVE.

Boiled trout and salmon,

Rein deer's tongue,

Cold fowl,

Brandered moor-game.

SAUCES.

Garlick, and Capsicum vinegars.

REMOVE.

Cheshire cheese,

Moor-game gizzards,

Biscuits.

Liquors—Port, Imperial, Jamaica rum punch, with fresh limes,

Porter, ale, &c.

We drank a little more than is usual, and slept very comfortably, ardently wishing for a fair day.

Returns; one salmon, twenty-three trout, seventeen moor-game.

DULNON CAMP.—August 26.—Awakened by the gabbling of moor-cocks (and a very extraordinary circumstance), the calling of partridges at four in the morning. Looked out of my canvass retreat, and found the day very inauspicious, cloudy, and likely for rain; turned into my cot, and got a comfortable nap; breakfasted at nine; all having had a pleasant night's rest, and perfectly pleased with our tents, which are really much superior for comfort to any I ever saw, and do credit to that very ingenious man, Mr. Trotter, of Frith-street, whom I may well recommend, for this business, to any sportsman. We breakfasted on some of Mr. Cartone's best tea, excellent cream from my old landlady (I must here say that their butter and cream

are as neatly kept, and as clean as any in the world, which was not the case when I was here before), some good eggs, marmalade and currant jelly, wheat bread, biscuits, &c. the latter very good, and brought from Leith. At ten it began to clear up, and became a very fine day, but rather a want of wind. Killed forty-one birds and a brace of snipes; Fomness and Balacroon caught plenty of fish; the hawks were bathed*, and prepared for the next day; met at six o'clock, dined, and passed a very comfortable evening, every thing having been adjusted in form.

Orders, that on no account the partridges around the encampment are to be disturbed by gun or feather, but to remain to beat the *revellie*.

Returns; forty-one moor game, two snipes, thirty-nine trout. Shot at the tent door before breakfast two old moor cocks.

August 27.—Day delightful.

This day I had dedicated to public hawking, the amusement being little known here; about twenty-five people met on the field, more I believe to visit my kitchen, as I have had reason since to believe, than to see the hawks. We had some uncommonly good flights in the front of the encampment, so that those sitting there might see the sport perfectly, the game flying, when pressed, among the junipers, that in a measure surrounded the camp.

See the bold falconers strain up the lingy steep,
Dash through the junipers, down the valley sweep;
Not half so swift the trembling doves can fly,
When the fierce falcon cleaves the liquid sky.

No place could be better adapted, or any day better suited for sport; and though, from the losing of one of the tercelts for some time, we were retarded, yet we had sport enough, and killed four brace and a half; caught twenty-seven trout, and sat down very joyously to dinner.

* All hawks bathe themselves, as do all birds of prey, to which nature prompts them, to cleanse themselves from the filth attendant on their mode of living, and also to cool the hotness of their nature; and, if flown at game, when requisite, they desert their quarry, and seek for water, or sometimes take to the *Soor*, (a term in falconry) when they get into the clouds, seeking for cooler or lighter air, as may be seen by kites, crows, &c. in a hot day.

* The satisfaction that hawking had given to so many people, totally unacquainted with it before, (and some of the above-mentioned causes, perhaps, operating) might be discerned by their countenances, lively and animated; and which added, if possible, new beauties to this delightful spot.

As I have not hitherto given an account of the situation, I shall, in this place, simply convey a small idea of the ground we were encamped on.

The turf was as fine as any walk in a garden, perfectly dry and gravelly, as indeed all this country is; for which reason I conceive it peculiarly adapted for the breeding of game; and this, added to the protection the quantity of junipers give them from hawks, kites, buzzards, and eagles, renders its situation probably unequalled. To the south of the encampment, about seventy yards from our tents, meet three small rivers, tumbling over their rocky channels, and immediately in our *front* unite and form the Dulnon:—

"These plenteous streams a various race supply,
The bright-ey'd *char* with fins of Tyrian dye;
The *silver eel* in shining volumes roll'd,
The yellow *gilges*, in scales bedropt with gold;
Swift *trout* diversified, with crimson stains,
And *par*, the liveliest of the watry plains."

On the banks of these rivulets rose mountains, some (that is to say, those in front) steep to a degree; on the right were gently rising moors, but so dry, that the most timorous London Miss, just turned out an accomplished horsewoman from *Emmerson*, might ride with pleasure, and where Churchill's satire, in the following lines, would have been truth itself:

"Far as the eye could reach no tree was seen,
Earth clad, in russet, scorn'd the lively green."

The game on these moors is innumerable. In a mile long, and not half a one broad, I saw at least one thousand brace of birds.

On the front of the encampment, not above one hundred yards beyond the brook, arose that beautifully-even, immense hill, called Croke Franc*,

* In the Erse language, *French Hill*.—I could never learn its etymology; it is something singular to meet with a hill so called in the heart of these deserts.

whose sides had plenty of Moor game, and on whose summit were found ptarmigans and cairneacs, and where I once saw a species of fox nearly white.

This hill was totally preserved untouched for Messrs. Serle and Parkhurst, affording excellent hawking, easily to be obtained by the one, and commodious shooting for the other.

On our left, about two miles, we got a partial peep at the beautiful forest of Dulnon, in which are plenty of stags and roebucks, also black game on its edges.

Returns of the day: shot two moor-game, hawks killed nine, trout twenty-seven.

August 28.—Day still windy, but fair.

Mr. Gerrard went to take another view of the post or pillar at *Coriarder*.

Dr. M'Pherson and myself having procured some very excellent small trout as bait, I expected great sport in trolling for the immensely large trout in this lake, some of which are reported to weigh forty or fifty pounds, equal to any killed in the lake of Geneva. The doctor fished with *fly*, by which means, he keeping at the head, and myself at the stern of the boat, we did not interfere with each other, which nevertheless requires great attention in both parties, to prevent entangling the lines. The doctor killed fifty-seven very fine trout, some of which weighed between two and three pounds, and none of them were small. I killed one of four pounds, and a brace of inferior weight; but, the day being cold, we returned home, and took a slight repast.

We then promised ourselves great success with a very large and well-contrived net, seventy-nine yards long, by twelve deep, with which we made sure of taking some of those large trout that seldom rise at any bait, but which the doctor had taken in set or double-armed nets, many of them weighing six pounds. While he tried netting, I took a walk by the edge of the wood, in order to procure a black cock for Mr. Gerrard.

The evening was warm and pleasant. I saw some old black cocks, but

flying into the woods, as they usually do, I did not get a shot at them. In my way home, however, the dogs stood, and I flushed a brood; I wounded one very slightly, having loaded with some dust-shot. This bird appeared to be so slightly hurt, that I hoped to preserve him, and get him to feed, by putting him in a coop with a chicken*.

Taking great care of my bird, I proceeded, keeping the edge of the lake to look for Dr. M'Pherson, I had some hopes of seeing an old black cock, or probably a roebuck, and, hearing a rustling, I expected one to bounce out, but it proved to be a poor inoffensive lamb; there were two, which had wandered and lost themselves.

For o'er the ill-fenc'd dales, with fleeces torn,
Unguarded from the fox, here lamplings stray forlorn.

One of these innocents was so terrified at the sight of the dogs, that he leaped down a precipice, I saw that he was much hurt, and, therefore, sent my servant down, who informed me that the poor animal was in great agonies, having broken its thigh; this induced me to order him to kill it in the easiest manner he could. The other, I am confident, was susceptible of the ties of friendship, strongly rivetted, perhaps, by having been constant companions, for many months, in this solitary place: he sympathised with his unfortunate mate, and, having now lost it, came up to me. I think I saw a tear trickle down his pye-balled face, and, fawning, allowed me to stroke it, which I did frequently; and, thus connecting itself with me and my party, in the most social manner, bleating and mourning the loss of its companion, it followed me home. I declare I felt myself much hurt; but the accident was as irreparable as unforeseen.

Advancing farther on the lake side, I saw the *Ville de Paris*, crossing, it seems, in search of the fox-hounds, seven of which had been nicely baited with live bait; but the wind, shifting, had carried them across the lake, and we trusted they would produce some good fish, but no more than a couple could be found, and they had no fish at them.

* Moor-game are very easily domesticated, and live like poultry, feeding on all kinds of grain.

Dr. M'Pherson was gone home, where I found him; he produced two large dishes, filled up to the top, with trout, all in good order, but none above five pounds: in number two hundred and seventeen. Mr. Gerrard was just at the entrance of the grass-plot before the house, when he met me, and informed me that he had seen a very uncommon bird, which was at no great distance. I went with him in search of it, though now owl's light*, and got an indistinct sight of him, shot at, and accidentally killed him. It proved to be a *fly-catcher*, or *night-hawk*. I once met with a brood of them several years since, and, wanting meat for the hawks, I flew and took them. They are certainly a very curious bird, having a mouth much larger than could be conceived for so small a bird; their plumage is very beautifully chequered, a fine dark brown with some light tints.

August 29.—Morning delightful, which induced Mr. Gerrard to stay and take some views I had noticed of the lake, and of the sharp, angular, but stupendous mountains of Lochaber, which promised a fine back-ground to the scene.

Dr. M'Pherson undertook the management of sending forward the *Ville de Paris*, of recovering the fox-hounds and fishing; Mr. Gerrard engaging to pass the evening with him at Dalhenny; as for me, my motions were so uncertain, and my intended excursion for the day so severe, that I did not expect to be able to join them till the next day; and thus we parted.

Mr. A. Mitchel accompanied me, and, being attended by a herdsman and my two servants, we ascended another part of the mountain, taking up with us a cast of slight hawks. We found it much steeper than on the opposite side of the valley; and it was with great difficulty we reached the summit, where we saw an innumerable quantity of ptarmigants, and some snow flakes; also plenty of snipes in the bottom.

The day turned uncommonly cold when we were near the top of the mountain. I had tried the thermometer at the bottom, and found the air,

* A term in falconry, for that time of the evening just after sun-set.

at eleven o'clock, at 68°, and now repeating the experiment at *one*, on the top, where it was intensely cold, it was at 46, and, plunged in the springs, at half a degree less. We had repeated squalls of cold rain, and, for a few minutes, some hail and snow, which obliged us to go lower down the mountain, after getting thoroughly wet; however, the brisk winds soon dried us.

The ptarmigants were very shy, which induced me, when we were on even, though rocky ground, to fly the falcon; we thought she killed a bird at some distance, and, following her, the dogs stood, being now acquainted with their game: we then flew the tercel, which also went out of our sight, and, notwithstanding all the trouble we took for an hour, we could not find him. The falcon we knew was at so great a distance, that one of the falconers went after her, and, at length, we found what we took to be the tercel, which, being alarmed by a dog accidentally coming near him, would not let us approach him, though I tried every art I was master of. Finding it in vain to attempt it any longer, we sat down to dinner at a small distance from the spot, when, having finished our meal, we found he was gone: this I did not expect, nor did I now see any possibility of recovering him, at least, till he had eaten up his pelt. Fortunately, however, I winged a young ptarmigant, with which I hoped to recover one of the hawks. As for Crosly, who had been absent three hours in search of the other, we concluded, by his not returning, that he had not found it: leaving, therefore, two of the party to watch the tercel, and to make signals to each other, if they found him, which they soon did, I went in search of him, and met him coming up to me, with a melancholy countenance, despairing of ever finding his falcon again. I had entertained an idea that the hawk we all took to be the tercel, was really the falcon; but I never could ascertain it, for, having seen her following her game a mile beyond, and the tercel kill her bird where we found her, I concluded, that my eyes deceived me; how this unaccountable change in the situation of the hawks took place, I know not, but it proved to be, as I had conceived, and we recovered both, having finished their quarry.

Our party being fatigued with walking over the stones, and far from stout myself, we descended the mountain, and being glad of an opportunity to indulge the servants, who had always shown great activity and readiness in executing their business, we permitted them to amuse themselves with fishing at Coriarder; for which purpose I gave my rod to one of them, the other having provided for himself.

In the mean time I returned homewards, trying, as usual, to get a black cock for Mr. Gerrard, but without success. I met with plenty of snipes, and killed all I saw: four brace and a half, and a grey plover. Having wounded one, I hastened home, in order to tempt the goss-hawk with it, which had become less savage since she had been at Aberarder.

I found her twisted with her *jessois* round the perch, and disentangled her; but was very cautious, and, perhaps, my caution made me relish her not so strongly as she should have been. Crosly, returning from his fishing, saw that I had fed her, and left her as he found her.

I was scarcely dressed, when I was told that two Highland gentlemen, relations of Dr. M'Pherson, were at the door. I desired them to alight, it being very late, and the road execrable: after some entreaties, I prevailed, and they passed the evening with me, intending, the next day to take the same road I was going.

One of these gentlemen had served in America, during almost all the war, the other had been in Nova Scotia. They entertained me with a number of curious anecdotes during the evening, among the rest, one, which is scarcely credible; but I am assured it is well known, and can be attested by the generality of the army, serving last war in America.

A Captain B. of the artillery, was eighteen days without any other subsistence than a small biscuit, and returned to one of the British quarters, after having, during that time, travelled through the thickest forests, &c. His dog expired some days before he got to the fort.

Many instances have appeared of men living several days at sea, and elsewhere, with little or no subsistence; but none equal to the above.

August 31.—Morning very squally. I was awakened, at an early hour, by Crosly, who informed me, that the goss-falcon, which he went late at night to look after, was gone, taking the *lease* with her; the fault certainly was mine, in not tying her more carefully; but still I thought him blameable in not housing her, as he had done the gentle hawks, in which case the accident could not have happened. Our distress was mutual, as we were both desirous of trying this falcon, the very first specimen of one bred and tried in Britain, there being no account of either taken notice of in the History of Falconry. She was gone, and, what was still worse, she was not belled: this had not been done, because, as yet, she had not been flown, or lured, owing to her prodigious shyness. There seemed to be very little chance of finding her; but, having been fed late upon a snipe, the most indigestible of all food, and, having probably gone off when it was very dark, I still hoped she might be sitting upon some wall, or other eminence, not far off. Every man that could be mustered was, therefore, sent in search of her, which deranged my measures, and I confess I was greatly mortified, especially as Mr. Gerrard had not taken any drawing of her.

However, I at length took leave of Mr. Mitchel, my landlord, who had been very polite, and, in company with the two gentlemen, proceeded on horseback to Dalhenly; for I was too lame to walk. The road was intolerable; it rained heavily; and, upon the whole, we had a very unpleasant journey. We arrived at Dalhenly by eleven o'clock, and were glad to sit down to a good fire and breakfast. Mr. Gerrard, who had been highly delighted with the views I had pointed out to him, of Loch Laggan, was gone for Raits by five in the morning, to get forward with his work, which, of late, had been much impeded, his painting apparatus having suffered considerably from the sinking of the boat. After breakfast we fished some pools in the Spey with the net, and killed two fine salmon, four pike, and six trout, one of which weighed six pounds; but, the day being squally, we were driven in, and I relinquished the idea of riding home, to return in the

Ville de Paris, which, as the rain had swoln the river, we thought might easily be effected.

Every thing was accordingly put on board, and, as the wind and stream favoured our expedition, I made no doubt of being down the river soon. Having apologized to the family for not attending them to church, I got aboard, and we went on pleasantly, the day very cold; we did not move so fast as I either wished or expected, for I had determined, if possible, to be at Raits to dinner, having calculated whether it was possible, and thought it was.

After falling down the river, turning carefully some gentle falls, about six miles, I saw on the shore a good looking man moving towards us, and perceived it was *Leslie* the fox-hunter, a man above the common size, who very civilly begged leave to come on board, saying, that he had been the night before at my house with a roebuck. Being seated, with his assistance to row, for he had no other idea of our navigation, and very desirous of having done what no man but myself had ever attempted, going up the Spey by water, impossible for any but such a vessel as mine; we went on rather better, and his telling me many good stories, made the time pass away pleasantly enough. The sun also gave us a peep of his countenance.

We found ourselves going pretty rapidly among the streams: this velocity we wished to accelerate, the motion was so pleasant; when, perceiving before us a rise on the river, and consequently a fall below, we thought we should glide through delightfully, and were all much elated with the expectation of this pleasurable sensation, but, we were most miserably deceived, which is not very unusual in the best-founded expectations in this world; for the rise, we found afterwards, was occasioned by a concealed rock, which, owing to the swiftness before described, sent poor *Leslie* into the river, myself head-long in the boat, and *Matt* upon his back into the water, over the side: not being deep, however, she lay till we had recovered from the consternation this adventure had occasioned.

Leslie was very wet; that we were all well accustomed to—my heel had

suffered, my head a little; Matt had hurt his back; but we were, all things considered, no worse, and finished this accident by laughing.

We found the river not much increased in size as we came down: had it been deeper, we should not have met with the accident. Leaving the servants to proceed as near Raits as they could, I attempted to walk: came to the brook where our carriage and boat had been found between two large stones on our journey up: it was then easy enough to get over, but now I found it much enraged; there was no remedy, the boat was by this time got considerably down the river; to hesitate what to do has never been my practice, in I dashed, and was soon up to the middle, however, I got to the other side. In this situation, and feeling considerable pain for my ankle, I determined to call on my friends at Banker. I soon explained to them the cause of my wetting, got some dry things, and some refreshment; and, unable to accept of their polite invitation to dine and spend the evening, I readily embraced the offer of Captain M'P's horse, which proved a good English gelding, by far the best I had seen in Badenoch, and was soon at Raits; where I found Mr. Gerrard anxiously waiting for me, and overjoyed with the specimen of the roebuck he had received from Leslie; but, unfortunately, to make him more portable, they had dislocated his legs, so as to spoil his appearance, in a great measure, for Mr. Gerrard's purpose. This, however, being the only specimen we had had, or possibly could procure, he coloured it very accurately in oils.

Being dressed, and dinner announced, the servants informed me a Highland gentleman was at the door: he was shown in; I could not recollect to have had any acquaintance with him; however, I asked him to sit down to dinner, as it was on table: this civility he had the politeness not to require me to *repeat*.

After dinner I found he seemed much disposed to pass the evening; this additional favour I did not expect, and honestly, as my leg became very much irritated and inflamed, I could very readily have dispensed with, though, at all other times I trust I never was deficient in hospitality. However, as he made no ceremony with me, I made less with him, and Mrs. C.

having prepared some poultice of Goulard, I attended the whole of the evening to my leg, and retired early to bed.

The next day an express came, to inform me, that Mr. D's horses and pointers were arrived at Pitmain, and were ordered to remain there till their master came forward, who would dine with me to day. The thoughts of having so good a sportsman in camp with me, made me lament that my keenness would get the better of prudence, and that, by constant irritation, I should prevent my sinew being ever thoroughly healed. I applied Goulard at every instant, and, in the course of the day, I found it fairly skinned over: all was now well, for in other respects no man existing could be better; my pointers first rates; hawks in good order; game plenty; an excellent cook; a good party; in short, every thing a keen sportsman could wish for.

Having given the necessary orders, that the encampment should be formed the next day, if a fine one, recollecting the disasters of the former for want of such precaution, the servants were sufficiently employed; Mr. D. arrived, and was delighted with the country; he had formerly been at Dalwhinny, but never had entered the smiling Badenoch, and was to the full as eager as myself for our entering the encampment; he gave me but an indifferent character of his pointers; however, as we had game enough, I knew he could not want sport.

Mr. D——'s company gave a new turn to our conversation; as our different adventures did to his; he was much pleased with all Mr. Gerrard's views, and particularly with Loch Neiland and Loch Laggan; and having expressed his taste for good trout, or indeed for any fish, I ordered the magazine to be examined: the fish were apparently in good condition, and the noble trout, a small jack, and some eels, were ordered to be dressed for dinner. This proved to us, for the first time, the great utility of this machine.

Every thing for the comfort of life may be had in the Highlands, at least nine months in the year, superior, if not to all, to most other countries. Nature has given to the face of the country a large proportion of barren

heath, but in the valleys every luxury of animal food, and that of the most excellent kind, abounds during most of the winter months. Indeed, the mountain-cattle are too fat in summer; and, with a little attention and some expence, might, no doubt, be enjoyed during the whole winter, as they suffer less from snows than is imagined. The tops of their lofty mountains are certainly buried, as it were, in eternal snows; but their altitude does not affect the valleys; and here, being protected by immense mountains, clothed with impenetrable forests, they are warmer than in most situations.

The poverty of some, however, prohibits their enjoying luxuries, or even common necessities, brought from afar at no inconsiderable expence; and, the supine indolence of others, prevents their making the most of those benefits which their local situation gives them.

For instance, though scarcely a laird's estate is to be found where there is not plenty of fish, I scarcely ever saw any fresh-water ones at their tables. If they would make reservoirs, and fill them as we have done our fish trunk, they might have a regular supply; and, when out of season, either salt them, as is usually done with lean fish only; or, by removing their *clue*, allow them to return to their native element and liberty, the river.

Dinner was announced; our fish proved excellent indeed; and this improvement, though of no great consequence elsewhere, was of great consequence in our situation; besides, I was heartily tired of sending game or fish to the natives, for, as I observed before, they received them coolly, which was not the case when I sent them Cheshire cheeses; and the inconvenience of dispatching English servants, after a day's sport, with game, to a distance, we found very great, where every servant was fully employed; I, therefore, determined, after the two first days sport, when game possibly would be acceptable as a novelty, not to send any more: with which resolution the gamekeepers were well satisfied. The dessert being placed, which had usually consisted of biscuits, sweatmeats, currants, gooseberries, &c. we found the table covered with the finest oranges, tamarinds, and other West India fruits. These Mr. D. well knowing how acceptable they would be to us, had had the politeness to bring in great profusion; together with a large quantity of fresh

limes, which made into punch, and very weak, is to me one of the most cooling, grateful beverages imaginable, after a severe autumnal day's shooting.

September 2.—Day most enchanting.

We had agreed to rise early, and were up before six, not so much from inclination as necessity; for the noise and bustle made in the house by the servants' getting every thing ready for our departure, made it impossible, for some time before, to enjoy any repose. Saw the whole equipage put in motion and, as had been usual at all former removals, there was considerable altercation between my servants and the countrymen, one of whom thought he had placed more on his horse than he could carry. We amused ourselves with looking at them, and I determined to do this man justice, when, literally, on examining into his complaint, it appeared that he had no more weight allotted him than my butler undertook to carry double the distance. I am confident the whole did not weigh three stone. They are sad people to deal with, in general; they are never content, and expect to be paid for doing next to nothing.

Being all on the march by seven, one servant was ordered to lead, another to bring up the rear, and Mr. D.'s valet, a sharp fellow, undertook to see that they lost nothing; a very necessary precaution. We breakfasted, and, most of the servants being dispersed, we had little force at home; but, as Mr. D. had been much pleased with our course of fish the day before, and we had no pike at Dulnon, we agreed, gentlemen as well as servants, for the falconer was at home, to take one or two hauls. We had our net soon ready, and almost as soon in the river: made a judicious draught, and succeeded. We took three pike, none large; but nineteen fine large trout, and above one hundred small ones. Having now a stock sufficient to supply the magazine, we sent some of the large ones to camp; others were cured, to eat cold; and, as Mr. Gerrard could not leave his painting, and a canvass-house is by no means calculated for an artist, we left him, forming the following plan; to shoot home, and dine, every Saturday; to remain on Sunday, and shoot to camp on Monday. This scheme afforded variety, and when tired, he had it in his power to come up to us; game to be

sent home every morning; the housekeeper to return soups ready made, and other necessities.

We rode, and the falconer attended with a cast and a half of hawks, one of which I took on my fist, and hunted, to oblige Mr. D. with a brace of my pointers. The road, as I imagined, he would find very indifferent: game abounded. I had long resisted the solicitations of Mr. D. to fly a hawk whenever we happened to mark in a poult near us, which was frequently the case. At length, one came so near, that I could not deny him this breach of the law, in a country which requires none. I consented. Determined to follow up the bird, a tercel was unhooded, and took a very handsome place, and killed his bird at the first flight. Having once broken the law, grown bolder in iniquity, as is usually the case, we stuck at nothing, and had a very pleasant day's sport indeed; for the hawks were well broke in to ptarmigants, and flew well. We killed twenty-two birds, and had a most incomparable flight at a snipe, one of the best I ever saw, for full sixteen minutes. The falcon flew delightfully, but the snipe got into a small juniper-bush near us, her only resource. I ordered the tercel to be leached down, and I took the other falcon, meaning at any rate that they should succeed with this snipe. When flushing it, I flew my falcon from the hood, the other was in a very good place, and on the falconer's head. A dreadful, well-maintained flight they had, and many good buckles in the air. At length they brought her, like a shot from the clouds, into the same juniper-bush she had saved herself in before, and close to which we were standing. Pluto soon stood it, and so closely, that I fortunately took it alive; and, throwing out a moor-poult to each falcon as a reward, and preventing, by this means, the two hawks fighting for the snipe and carrying it away, we fed them up, delighted beyond measure at this noble flight. We minuted them very accurately, both times, when they took to the air, and the last flight was eleven minutes; during which time, moderately speaking, they could not fly less than nine miles, besides an infinite number of buckles, or turns.

The falcons being hooded, and the tercel not quite fed up, it was proposed by the falconer, keen after blood, that I should give him a flight with

the snipe. This we thought ungenerous, after having afforded us so much sport. We marked him so, that we might know him again, should he ever come into our hands, and gave him his reprieve, and turned him off. He flew very stiff indeed, but would soon recover, as he had received only a very slight stroke from one of the falcons. I once saw a falcon of mine, hawking near Thornville, with Captain Barlow, at one stroke cut a snipe in two parts, so that they fell separate.

We walked up the height, and unexpectedly brought Mr. D. to a view of the encampment: to be sure, unless to people well acquainted with our situation, it might be very easily overlooked; for our small tents, pitched amongst these extended moors and huge mountains, appeared like white dots. But the smoke from the kitchen rose up very handsomely, seeming determined to give some dignity to our otherwise apparently paltry retreat. We were soon under canvass; all seemed as well adjusted as any encampment is the first day; for, simple as persons are encamped, having apparently few wants, scarcely have those few been supplied till they are on the point of striking their tents. We were soon dressed, and soon at dinner.

Returns of the game, which we agreed again to keep as I had done the former year:

Hawks, twenty-two moor-game, one snipe.

Sept. 3. — The night had been rather windy; it had also rained pretty smartly, so that, when I rose in the morning, I found that Mr. Drighorn had been much alarmed, having never slept in a tent before. After breakfast, we took separate routes.

I had scarcely got to my ground, when it blew a storm; of course I could neither shoot, nor would the game allow me to come near enough to try. I therefore thought of returning to camp; but, still imagining that I might do better under the hills, I repaired thither, but with little or no advantage: however, in some deep bottom, to which I found the birds had retired for shelter, was more successful: I shot six brace before dinner, and then sat down to my repast.

My fresh dogs and hawks arrived, but I could make no use of the latter,

nor did I intend more than to keep them in order, by recovering my wounded birds; and, as the weather did not seem likely to become calmer, I turned towards camp, when I heard a double shot, by which I knew that Mr. Drighorn was not far off; and, as I advanced, I saw that one of our tents, which had been very ignorantly pitched with the door to windward, was blown down; it was Mr. Drighorn's marquee; and when a man's house is down, it is time for him to return: I therefore concluded he came to give his assistance, as I apprehended it was torn to pieces, or at least the pole broken, but found only the pegs had given way; that a servant had very sensibly lashed the whole as tight as possible round the pole, and that Mr. Drighorn's return was occasioned by the weather.

We lured the hawks, and amused ourselves at home till supper was on the table, when an express came, saying, that a carriage, with two gentlemen and servants, was arrived: found they were Messrs. Fleming and Monteith, of Barochan Castle. was extremely happy to see them, and astonished them with my day's sport, mostly old cocks: game was plentiful, I never but once took my gun to any bird that was not completely grown, despising smaller ones.

These gentlemen had been pleased to bring a very ample supply of fresh limes, lemons, and China oranges, (rarities in these parts), with marmalade, currant jelly, and all kinds of confectionary in profusion; all which was useful, but not half so desirable as their good company.

Had the honour of eight gentlemen to sup with me, who came to pay their compliments to the long-expected strangers.

The *censurer* was tried at my friends request, and I appeal to them, whether a better dish than this instrument cooked, was ever dressed or tasted in London.

Sept. 4.—We now proceeded to our fresh ground, but found the game not so plentiful as we had expected; the fact was, that it was bad scenting, for I am certain there were great quantities of birds; and what was still more unfortunate, the afternoon turning out rainy, they would not lie. Again took to hawking, and several excellent flights we had: while the falcon was lifting,

I again wished to shoot, as it was then fair for a short time, but my rammer-rod was so swelled that it was impossible. However, I then, and not till then, bethought me of using the cleaning rod, which answered the purpose, and I shot four old cocks.

The dogs, in the course of this day, got upon something, I could not tell what, which they footed a considerable way, and by the bristles rising on their backs, I plainly perceived it was not game, but vermine. Conceived it to be a wild cat, or martin, which, in these moors abound, and should have been particularly pleased to have got a shot at it, but it escaped me.

The wild cats here are very large, nearly the bulk of a middling-sized fox, remarkably fierce, and very destructive to game and lambs. Their brush is nearly as thick as that of the fox.

Repaired to camp, not a little pleased with the prospect of the next day being fine.

Returns; shot twenty-nine, hawks eight; total, thirty-seven.

September 5.—Day rather cloudy. Wishing to avoid severe walking, being rather lame, was desirous to vary the scene, and take a day or two of that famous fishing I had had a taste of in Lawson's Gulph. On our return to Raits, notwithstanding the rain, we got some few shots, and the weather afterwards clearing up, determined to proceed towards our ground.

About three miles from camp, followed a vale so choked up with junipers, rocks, and water, that it was with difficulty we could make any road, even on our moor ponies.

At eleven we got to our beat, and the instant the dogs were uncoupled, they stood: the brood flushing, I singled out the cock, and finding this brood of a very desirable size for the tercel, we gave up the shooting, and uncoupled the hawking dogs; and posting the servants and horses, Mr. Gerrard and myself, attended by Crosly, flew the tercel, which killed a brace handsomely.

I then disposed of the hawks as follows:—I went on about half a mile before them, down wind, so that any birds coming from me might be easily

marked by Mr. Gerrard or Crosly, and if wounded, they would as easily take them, which, added to its answering their purpose, would be an act of mercy; for, to allow a wounded bird to draw out a miserable existence, when it can be any way prevented, is surely brutal; and I trust that other gentlemen make it a constant rule never to allow, if possible, a wounded bird to live. Many an hour's sport have I given up for that purpose.

I never was better pleased with my dogs, they behaved wonderfully; ground very mossy and bad, but game plentiful; shot with great success till one o'clock, when rain came on, and forced us to take shelter under a rock, where we refreshed ourselves, and Mr. Gerrard joined me with the hawks. Seeing no prospect, however, of the day's holding fine for any length of time, we made towards home; my gun never hung fire, and though muffled up, I now and then got a shot, and when I found a fair blink, we took an occasional flight. As our encampment lay down the wind, this did not impede us; we got a handsome wetting, but had good sport, and came home to a comfortable fire in the bothée; all our apparatus, for change of dress, &c. the servants grown expert by practice, had made thoroughly warm, and dinner being hastened, to our great satisfaction, was soon ready.

Returns; shot forty-two, hawks nine; total fifty-one.

Sept. 6.—The morning was very far from pleasant at *six*, the time we had given orders to be roused; Mr. Gerrard being very desirous to make some drawings: the day mended at *eight*, but it was with difficulty I prevailed on myself to rise at *nine*.

At breakfast we agreed on a place to meet together at five in the evening, in order to hawk towards Raits; afterwards we separated, each in pursuit of his own amusement.

A more favourable day could not be wished for; the heather quite dry, and a charming wind. I had not proceeded far, before one of the servants perceived that he had forgotten the preservative, which I always made it a point to have with me; as, indeed, I did that each servant should carry what was particularly allotted to him, to prevent any thing being wanting.

He was sent back, and this retardment affected the operations of the whole day; for, flying the falcon, while waiting his return, she killed a brace of birds; but on my shooting, and wounding a bird, she was again flown, and could not be found. Crosly went in search of her, and I proceeded alone, very inconveniently, having no nets, over rough, steep ground, but had good sport, though the whelps, (the dogs I had taken for this day,) I believe, knew that I had not the recollector, and behaved rather according to their own will than mine.

To my astonishment, I now saw the Duchess, the lost falcon, hanging over me, and desirous of lighting on my head. She assisted the dogs, and drove me in three broods of game among some junipers. I had several very pretty points; but unluckily my flint, being worn down, deceived me at three different shots. I put in a new one, and killed every bird as they rose. I then hoisted a handkerchief, as a signal that the Duchess was near me, at the same time giving the *hawk halloo*; when Matt coming up, I dispatched him down the mountains to inform Crosly, who soon joined me.

We proceeded, and every thing seemed to go on well; but our prospect of sport was of short duration, for such a storm came on as, I believe, was never before felt on the moors: it blew and rained most violently; of course, the game would not lie: I, therefore, soon fixed my plan, which was, that every one should shift for himself, while I made the best of my way to Raits, at least, ten miles off, over mosses, almost impassable for horses. About three o'clock the storm abated, when, seeing one of the servants at some distance in distress with the horses, following a wrong track, I halloed, dand him understand his error, and waited till he came up, which fortunately prevented his going ten miles out of the road. I now threw off my great-coat, which I am confident was so full of water, that it weighed at least three stone. Got some scrambling shots at a great distance, but not too far for *destruction*, and still kept hastening on towards home, not caring to trust to this favourable blink; and soon found I had acted prudently, for, before we got to Raits, it rained as heavily as ever.

Mr. Gerrard did not return till seven in the evening: I had waited

dinner for him, conceiving that the weather might be foul among the mountains, though it had now cleared up with me: however, he had met with no rain on his return, but, losing his road, had come two miles about.

Returns; shot twenty-one; hawks, six; total twenty-seven.

One of the moor-game, killed on the heights, was a very fine specimen for Mr. Gerrard*.

Received a packet of letters, and, opening them, was not a little disconcerted, when, perusing two from Mr. Serle, I found it was totally impossible for him to meet me here, as we had agreed on, he having very unfortunately broken his arm.

I regretted exceedingly the not having received this intelligence earlier, as it would have eased me of much anxiety, as well as have enabled me to arrange my measures accordingly; and, in that case, I might probably have induced Messrs. F. and M. or one of them at least, to pass some weeks with me, which they could not now do on any account.

September 7.—Mr. D. and I shot separately, owing to the wet ground. The birds were exceeding wild, so much so, that I had very indifferent success: at one shot, however, I killed an old cock, at so great a distance, that I was induced to measure it: it was not so far as I imagined, being only one hundred and three yards.

I knew the hawks would be able to do something, and I really wanted game for Mr. D. therefore lost no opportunity, knowing, likewise, that hawked birds keep the longest.

We flew the falcon, which played his part admirably, certain death attending each flight, neither sparing age nor sex. The tercel also killed the flights she made; but I could not, from the wind, get my gun to fire once in three times.

* I have remarked, though no great botanist, that all flowers of the same plant, on the tops of mountains, are similar to those found on the edges, except being whiter and smaller, according to the height they are found on; and, I am confident, it is so with respect to game: I am, therefore, of opinion, that ptarmigants are moor-game, stunted in their growth, and varying in their colour from local situation only.

Got back to Raits early, and found Mr. D. already there. From the ground he had shot upon being less exposed to the wind, he had had very good sport, though it is a wonder to me how he could kill any with four half-educated dogs. He is really an excellent shot, few exceed him.

I had a very comfortable party to dinner, and made the most of it: Captain M'Intosh and the Laird were among my guests, and promised to pass some time with me.

Returns; Mr. D. fifteen; Col. T. —; hawks, seven.

September 9.—I had some expectations of Mr. Anderson's joining me; but the appearance of the day, by a message I received, prevented him.

Began to shoot at eleven, but found it wonderfully cold, when, looking over towards the Cairngorms, I discovered a very sufficient reason for the chilliness I experienced; for the wind was not only north, but the heights were completely covered with hillocks of snow, which appeared, as well as I could judge from their distance, to be at least four feet thick: we had had some sprinkling of snow before; but this, I confess, astonished me.

Kept moving forward, unwilling to try any ground till I came to my bent; but some old cocks rising, made the dogs eager, which obliged me to uncouple them, and I shot occasionally, but always forward, till I came opposite to the field I proposed to try.

Here we found Crosly anxiously waiting for us with the hawks, and, an opportunity offering of a flight, and of a large brood rising, we flew the falcon, and, though she played away, it was some time before she could determine upon, and longer before she knocked down, her quarry, which, falling in a deep liny glen, it seems she could not find: Crosly followed her, while I strolled on, and, in a short time, saw the falcon hanging above me. Fortunately a very large brood sprung, of which she killed one; we lifted her, and, of this brood, I shot two brace and the old bird.

It was now past two o'clock, and extremely cold, as much so as I have felt it at Christmas. We, therefore, kindled a fire, and sat down to dine near a stream; and, having ordered the gun to be washed, I dried it, while

the servants had time to refresh themselves. By some inattention, the barrel slipped through my fingers, and, unluckily, falling upon a stone, the upper pipe was bent so flat, that I doubted if I should ever be able to get the rammer-rod to go down; which, however, with some difficulty and great care, I at length effected.

I had had some suspicions, that my famous treble battle-powder had received damage from a leak in the Falcon sloop, and this day's shooting fully convinced me of it: I regretted that I had relied upon Crosly's opinion, who imagined that no impression could be made on the tin-flasks in which it was packed: I never knew powder hang so much, and always firing dull; but there was no remedy. With good powder, I verily believe I could have killed thirty brace presently. Pero, Ponto, Dargo, Shandy, Carlo, and Romp, all whelps, behaved incomparably.

The strangers shot and hawked alternately, and, thus disappointed, I acted as marker and grand falconer.

Recovered the tercel which had been lost. Sent for my famous No. 2; and now I found the difference, this gun shooting in earnest: I had little occasion to hunt for wounded birds, a very difficult thing to find, there being such a multiplicity of other game, it was ten to one we ever recovered them.

After dinner, killed seventeen; Captain Fleming, fifteen; Mr. Drighorn, —; hawks, seven; Mr. Monteith, eleven. Capt. Fleming and Crosly caught twenty-nine trout.

Arrived at camp. The evening came on with gentle rain, and continued all night.

During the night, the storm increased; at every blast of wind, I really thought we should have been blown away. I felt for Mr. Drighorn, unused to these aerial dwellings, but had the misfortune really happened, and the tent-pole gone by the board, I was mischievous enough to have wished for moon-light, that I might have fully contemplated the distressing scene, similar to that which I had felt very effectually last year, with the

addition of rain: the prodigious height of the wind would have made this scene perfectly *al fresco*.

At eight in the morning, the wind rather abated; at nine, we rose and prepared every thing for shooting towards Raits, but I found my ankle very unfit for walking. Received our letters and packets, by which we learned, that the weather, not only in England, but in the low parts of Scotland, had been infinitely worse than with us.

Day, at *ten*, very good; at noon we parted, agreeing to meet at a certain point, and to shoot home.

At one, I arrived at my shooting ground; found the game still in the hollows, owing to the wind rising. My powder I had carefully dried, and at the first shot experienced the good effect. I drove in a brood of four brace, and killed the old cock and five polts without moving. I never had more pleasant sport than I enjoyed during two hours, when I sat down, took a little refreshment, and had my gun cleaned. We did not waste much time, as I had game dispersed all round me, and the wind, though rather high, was favourable for the pointers; unwilling, however, to keep my friend waiting, I proceeded, having excellent sport as I went forward.

The dogs stood not above one hundred yards from me, I dismounted, and the ling being very strong, it prevented an eagle (which I imagine had driven in the birds) from seeing me sooner; he rose, and a wonderful large one he was, or at least appeared so to me, having never been so near one before. Had I had common shot, which, from the gun I shot with, is sure destruction, instead of No. 6, I think I might have killed him. Of this brood of birds, though they lay so close, being terrified by their most dangerous enemy, the eagle, I killed a brace and a half; sent on to camp an ample fresh supply of apparatus, pastry, &c.: also changed my shot and began with No. 5. Found plenty of game, but it was still windy. We had agreed to shoot scarcely any thing but old cocks, having had sufficient sport. Came on the ground appointed to meet Mr. Drighorn, when casting about, I waited for him till near six. At six it began to rain, just as we met each

other, exact to our appointment, at the brook. Mr. D. had seen immense quantities of game*.

On this day received a present of a live blue leveret, whose muzzle was a light brown, the belly part white. Supped on the haunch of a roebuck, which proved delicious.

September 11.—Day windy and rainy.

We amused ourselves, in the morning, between the showers, when the sun shone, in luring the goss-hawk, still very shy.

Ordered dinner at three, intending to kill a few brace of cocks in the evening, when the moors would be dry and pleasant, which they are here in two hours after the severest rain. Accordingly, after dinner, we went out, though the wind still blew very strong. Soon found plenty of game, but I shot very indifferently; and, on my return, Mr. Drighorn made the same complaint respecting himself. In the rough grounds, where we shot in order to be more under the wind, our footing was very bad; and the birds, which I intentionally rose up wind, when at the distance of thirty yards from the shooter, were always upon the wheel; besides which, not once in four times could the fire reach the powder, but was blown away; for the pans were so well contrived, that the powder frequently was not blown away when the fire was: these circumstances duly considered, I believe we were not so much in fault as we had suspected.

I reached home before Mr. Drighorn, whom I heard firing away; he was much pleased with the pointers I had lent him.

Returns; Mr. D. fifteen; Col. T. twelve, double barrels; hawks two; total twenty-nine.

September 12.—Morning gentle, warm rain, but calm. My tent-pole

* Having experienced, this day, the very excellent effects of drying my own powder, I must here advise every sportsman not to neglect, but absolutely to dry it himself, if he means to be sure of doing execution. Servants, having no knowledge of philosophy or chemistry, either make it too hot, which effectually spoils it; or, for the most part, through idleness, do not dry it all. All sportsmen should do as much for themselves as they can, in which case their business will be well executed, and in the end amply compensate them. In general, can it be expected that men of little or no education, should execute orders, the use or meaning of which they do not comprehend?

had been broken short in the carriage, and was apparently reinstated the first day, and seemed in every respect equally good as the others. But at three o'clock this morning, from the quantity of rain falling, and no wind, it stood secure, till the canvass becoming too heavy for its strength, it broke short by the centre, alarming me and the canine tribe around me within the walls. At the time the accident happened, I was, as were all the camp *duopeds*, as well as quadrupeds, in profound sleep. At first I could not conceive what could be the matter, but soon guessed the cause. Unable to extricate myself from my canvass ruins, I attempted to alarm the camp, but to no purpose; they were all, after the fatigues of the day, in too profound a state of peace to be easily disturbed. With great difficulty I crept out on all-fours, and in a little time, having made my distress known, I got some assistance, and the whole camp was alarmed. On inspection, I found that the pole, fortunately, had broken by the centre, owing in fact to very bad, knotty wood, and, in its fall, had nearly missed my person, or I might have suffered considerably: it also very luckily broke not above an inch above my trout rod, secured to it, which otherwise must have been snapped. By means of a pyramid, which possibly never was equalled, except in Egypt, alternately built with sod and stones, and with the addition of some props from an old bothée, we got every thing reinstated by five o'clock, and the word, *all's well*, being passed, the whole encampment gave again signals of profound slumber, by a pretty considerable snoring, in particular heard from Capt. F's. marquee.

As I lay, I heard the whistling plover and ring-eagle around, upbraiding us with our idleness. We rose, however, very leisurely, having had a most pleasant, quiet night, after our accident; and it was the first, for all the others, since our arrival, not only at camp but at Raits, had been windy. After a long and luxurious breakfast on Cartone's tea, eggs, &c. we got out before one, the day being then very fine, and continuing so, we parted, each taking fresh ground, and Mr. Drighorn his best dogs.

Early in the day, I tried the goss-hawk at a wounded bird, but, just as I expected, she took to the soor and we lost her; indeed, I feared irrecoverably. While Crosly looked for her, I shot with indifferent success, accommodating

my ground, not following the most likely for game, but to assist him, an act of fellow feeling; for, to a sportsman, I do not know a more dreadful punishment, than that of searching for a lost hawk, or for a pack of hounds after being thrown out. Matt came up to us, while at dinner, bringing the falcon; we flew her twice, and then sent her home, that Crosly might be less engaged; and on looking again for the goss-hawk, he soon returned, having recovered her.

Of game I found an immense quantity, and, I am convinced, I could have killed any number: indeed I never shot better, nor killed so many, all our nets and my ammunition pocket being crammed full. At last I drove in three broods among some large junipers, certainly the most capital and luxurious of all shooting; this tempted me to take a double shot, and I killed both. Humanity then cried stop, would you destroy the whole race? No. I slung my gun, and, contemplating, joined Crosly, who was looking again for the goss-hawk. I had thrown her out a wounded old moor-game cock, which she had not seen; I then threw her out a strong polt, which, to my surprise, she raked with ease, and carried it into the junipers. Though I had determined, on no account, to fire at any moor-game, and cautiously avoided disturbing them, by following the edge of the beautifully, and now gently purling Dulnon; an unfortunate snipe got up, I could not resist, and killed it.

Getting home again before Mr. Drighorn, I took upon me the arrangement of his tent, and made it very comfortable.

September 13.—Morning tolerably calm and fine. Mr. D. being very desirous to return to Glasgow on business of some importance, prepared for his departure: Captain Fleming and Mr. Monteith, whom I had not been able to prevail on to stay any length of time, likewise bade me adieu, and we parted with mutual regret, they highly satisfied with the sport they had had. This being the day I had allotted to visit my friend Mr. Parkhurst, though it was a very favourable one for the moors, I adhered to my determination, and rode to Ruthven. Was made exceedingly happy, by

finding him so well recovered, that he returned with me, overjoyed, to Raits; and our party was once more restored to its original constitution, all heartily glad to get together again.

Went and saw Fonness; the house little better than a barn, but on the estate are many very eligible situations, adorned by hanging birch woods and pleasant inequalities of ground. There is a small lake, full of pike, which, at a very easy expence, might be beautified and enlarged.

Here the tenants of the estate had been delivering in their annual quota of peats, which, from the quantity of time and labour required in the casting, drying, manufacturing, and finally loading the same, makes this a very severe tax on the poor people, sufficiently oppressed without it; but there is no redress.

Took a nearer and more attentive view of the Falls of Truen: they are wonderfully fine, forming a vast cataract in a dark glen of stupendous depth, and, after rain, foam and exhale in great clouds of smoke. The sides of this glen form vast precipices, mixed with birch trees, mountain ash, and fir issuing from the fissures, and overhanging the waters which, after running a short space, unite and form themselves into a pleasant, rapid river.

The streams and pools, or, as they are called here *lyns*, are full of trout and salmon: we saw a man below us darting at the former, but a fear of keeping the dinner waiting, and the appearance of rain, prevented our staying any longer at this charming spot.

Before we got to Balacroon, our fisher sent after us a pretty, small salmon. Dined with Capt. John M'Pherson; was introduced to his family, and also to a Miss Anna M'P. a healthy, pleasant girl; her hair, which was of the colour of silver, I think is without parallel. Returned to Raits in the evening, intending to go to Avemore the next day.

September 14.—Morning clear and enchanting. We rose early, took our breakfast, and, having some letters to write, I detained Mr. D. whom I hoped to have persuaded, that all business, at the distance of two

hundred miles, should give way to the casting over fresh moors, and plenty of game; for I submit to sportsmen, whether there is not as much pleasure in trying fresh moors, as in any other amusement. I could not succeed, however, and we parted. Mr. P. finding himself well enough to take the diversion of fishing, proceeded for Avemore, and had a fine opportunity of admiring the scenes as we passed*.

The road here runs sometimes through oak and birch woods; at others, is exposed and naked. Immediately beneath Raits is a flat, of near three miles long, having large meadows, intermixed with wood and corn, and gentle risings, many of their surfaces covered with trees; others partially so, with weeping birches scattered, either over a fine verdure, or the purple bloom of the heather.

In the centre of this enchanting vale runs the winding Spey: a little beyond Baldnespeck, the beautiful *Loch Inch*, an expanse of water, three miles long and two broad, through which the Spey runs, bursts at once upon the eye, varied with all the softer beauties which nature can exhibit. Numbers of apparent islands are dispersed over this lake, chiefly of the same elevated forms as little knolls, and wooded in the same manner: others again just peep above the surface, and are tufted with trees; some are so happily disposed, as to form magnificent vistas between.

Continue our ride over a flat, dusky moor, half a mile long, the soil a fine red gravel, passing by Loch Alva, so famous for its pike, which we leave on the left; nothing can equal the contrast of the next five miles to Avemore.

* I have frequently heard friends of mine, men of equal taste, differ very materially in their representations of the subjects of nature, which, I think, I can now in some measure account for. So much depends, in the first place, on the *party*, so much on the *weather*, and finally on the *sensations* of the admirer, who will perceive, more or less beauties, according as those sensations are, or are not, in unison with the scenery, that we need not wonder at the difference of description which appears in the relations of different travellers.

I am, I think, accurate in this observation, with respect to myself, at least, I am certainly right; for, though I have past scenes often before, perhaps equal to this, with indifference, I could not do it in the present instance; and am disposed to ascribe it as much to the tone of my feelings, as to the external impressions they received.

Following the banks of the Spey, a most romantic and beautiful scene unfolds itself; woods of weeping birch, white thorn, aspin, mountain-ash, and oak, intermixed with junipers, grey rocks, but open enough in all parts to admit a sight of the water, wantonly forming itself into apparent lakes; the whole much enriched by three pretty, neat, white villas. Sometimes the way was straight for a considerable distance, and appeared like a fine and regular avenue; at others, it waved on the sides of the gentle declivities, at a pleasant distance from the water; in one part, as we entered, we were immersed in a wood, so dark, that the very sky was totally hid from us. Nothing here could equal the beauty of the road, which, quite to the water's edge, ran perfectly smooth and even; its borders covered with a fine velvety verdure, while the immense large weeping birches, with their rough, irregular coating, formed an impenetrable arch above; here and there, to the left is a partial view of the overhanging rocks, as wild as those of *Salvator*. To the right, the murmuring Spey glides in curling eddies, and falling into a deep, dark pool, rendered more solemn, if I may use the expression, by the total want of light, together with the notes of the different choristers in the branches above, force the traveller to stop and minutely admire their contrasted beauties. No effect of art can possibly equal this terrestrial paradise. I was quite absorbed, as was Mr. P. and indulging the different ideas, created by these various inimitable charms, we proceeded on, scarcely speaking.

The road still follows the Spey, which, in about one hundred yards, again changes her form, becoming now as terrific as she was before pacific. The torrents here breaking over rugged, detached fragments, which have been whirled from the adjacent mountains, mark, and but too distinctly, the devastation that she commits when swelled and enraged by the melting snows or heavy rains, at which time her width must be equal to a small arm of the sea, no doubt, carrying away all that shall attempt to resist her.

In about two hundred yards, at the end of this charming avenue, the inn at *Avemore* opens to your view, situated at the entrance of a large, wide.

even plain, bounded by grey, rocky, stupendous mountains, and intermixed with woods, yellow corn fields, pastures, and black unprofitable heath.

At this inn we breakfasted very comfortably, on some tolerable good tea, excellent cream, and fresh eggs, and proceeded to Lawson's Gulph.

In our way we killed a *cairovaune* and a brace of *kelochdoes**.

Found an indifferent boat on the lake ready, which was a treasure to us. It had been brought there with great difficulty by my former landlord; Mr. Grant.

Got into it, trolled, and killed, in the course of two hours five pike, from five to seven pounds weight; examined the place, which had nearly decided Lawson's fate, and found it at least thirty feet deep. Bid adieu to this charming spot, and hawked and shot on the borders, in our way to Loch Petulichge, very remarkable for pike of an immense size. Before we reached it, I killed a brace of black cocks, a moor cock, and a brace of partridges. The falcon killed one partridge.

Dined and again examined Loch Petulichge; found it much larger than Lawson's Gulph, and very likely to have immense fish, but not easily fished without a boat; threw in three fox-hounds, lost one, and only recovered the other two at the risk of a Highlander's life.

This lake, though it exceeds Lawson's Gulph in extent, is far, very far, inferior to it in beauty. Returned and fished the Spey, intending to try for a large pike, the conversation of the whole country.

The landlord, from my first interview, had given me strange accounts of some prodigious pike that were in the Spey, immediately below his house, but that there was one in particular which was a perfect nuisance, and that he might be found to take at all hours of the day: he himself hooked him three different days, and always broke his tackle and lost his hooks, a very serious thing here, where they were not to be bought: he, in revenge, and in hopes of obtaining him, and recovering his hooks, had shot at him four times without any effect. From these and other circumstances, corroborated by one of my attendants, I made no doubt but there might be some great over-

* Black Cocks.

grown pike, where he mentioned. Accordingly, I went and saw a most likely deep for such a fish as he described, and put my rod together; which being performed, and the wheel fastened, I found that, by my horses being sent to Avemore, my fishing-book was gone in the saddle (adapted to carry that and other apparatus); I was very anxious to try for this fish, and the people around, who had known his exploits, persuaded me and themselves, that the instant I threw in any living animal, even a dog, he would take it. I adjusted a strong trimmer-hook with a very moderate swivel; and, accordingly threw in a live bait; the instant the rapid stream carried it down, a pike came at me with infinite eagerness, making the whole water foam, and ran me across the stream, and into his hold, about forty feet.

This they assured me they well knew to be the same fish. The landlord was quite in an extacy; he having seen me kill many very large pike, concluded of course, that I should secure this, and made no doubt of recovering his lost hooks.

I gave him some time to gorge, and then began to play him, having excellent sport with him for ten minutes, and the landlord prepared himself with the landing net, but, before it was time to use it, he broke his hold.

Immediately dispatched a man to Avemore for my hook, and putting a fresh bait on, in order to save time, and still hoping, with the tackle I had, to kill him; I threw in, when, unconcerned, he took me as greedily as before.

I now gave him, as I thought, plenty of time, which is a great art in gorge fishing. I recommend it to every fisher in this way to read a sermon between the times of striking at his fish and his striking at the bait; and, in failure of a sermon, possibly a chapter in the *Pilgrim's Progress* might be found a pretty substitute.

The landlord came up, and took all the pains imaginable to insure me success, but I failed as before. I, at length, found I had been very imprudent not to wait for my own tackle, conceiving that he certainly would not have the impudence to take me any more that evening.

However, I now changed my mode of fishing (having adopted the other



from necessity) and threw in my bait, a very tempting, silver-coloured trout, with a pair of snap-hooks, that had never failed me. To my utmost satisfaction, he came again, if possible, more ravenous than before. I had examined my situation, and found that he only played with me; and the advantage of so rapid a stream to run into, and my confined situation making it very inconvenient, if not impracticable, to land such a fish, without the danger of getting a most complete ducking, I got well situated, about thirty feet higher up the stream, on a fine gravelly bed.

By this time I found he had run me out about sixty yards of line; but, the evening growing very dark, I attacked my gentleman in earnest, and he soon made my rod, though a very stout one, rattle, all its rings springing to the handle. I knew I had him secure, if no unforeseen accident happened, which we fishers, without any mode of preventing, sometimes feel. After having repeatedly run into the rapid stream, where, from its great width, and my situation, I was unable to follow him, he had nearly broken me, by running off almost the whole of my line, above eighty yards, which, had he completely effected, he would certainly have served me as he had my host before. I fortunately, however, turned him, and got up my line, with the multiplying wheel, as quick as possible, conceiving him now my own. The landlord waded in with the net, and the other attendant coming up, with some difficulty were securing him, just as Lawson arrived, whom I had been wishing for in vain, he having, by his uncommon good sense, always landed any great fish very judiciously.

He was now readily got ashore, and proved a most noble fish, though by no means equal to the one I have formerly mentioned. He was killed, and immediately crimped on the spot, and a large party invited to partake of him. We had an excellent supper, and I was not a little pleased, as well as my guests, with my uncommon success. We drank the fisher's delight in more bumpers than one.

Returns; six pike, seventeen trout; shot four black-cocks, and seven partridges; hawks killed two partridges and three snipes.

September 15.—Morning grey. Trolled before breakfast, after which I

caught a handsome small pike, about six pounds weight. Mr. P. and myself prepared to return to camp, highly pleased with our expedition, and intending to shoot on the way home, the day proving uncommonly fine.

We found plenty of game, but they were very wild, till the hawks met us, and, being flown, soon made them lie better. We had now several pretty points, and I could have killed double the number I did, had I not been chiefly employed in assisting Mr. Parkhurst to get some shots: never was a man more delighted than he was on killing a fine old cock at the first shot.

It was quite fatiguing to walk the distance of one hundred yards, and my leg had received an additional bruise; for, going along a precipice to see the most elegant water-fall I ever yet explored, and where I mean to erect a small hermitage next year, I met with a *fall*, which my companions were pleased to commemorate, by naming the place *The Falls of Thornton*. Finding, therefore, an inconveniency in shooting, we unhooded the *Devil*; but he flew, as expected, with no eagerness; however, he killed a brace and a half. I shot occasionally, but very indifferently.

A circumstance, rather distressing, now happened: a bird I had shot apparently dead, after lying some time, rose, while I was reloading, and, before I perceived it, was flying in my face: I struck at it with my gun, and in this operation the rammer-rod flew out. I ordered the death-tercel to be flown at the bird, which was done with effect, and while the hawk was rewarding and lifting, I took all imaginable pains to find the rod, but in vain; though I was assisted in the search by Captain M'Intosh and another gentleman, who had done me the honour to call on me at camp, and had now joined me, and to whom I had mentioned the oddity of the event, and the inconvenience of such a loss in this place. Crosly, however, who had seen it fly out, was more successful, for he found it. We then sat down by a purling stream, drank a few glasses of shrub and water, and parted, the gentlemen promising to dine with me at camp at seven in the evening.

The goss-hawk was again lost: in luring, she had taken to the soor, and gone down towards the forest of Dulnon, much in the same way as she had

done the day before. We trusted, as she had now bells on, that we should recover her in the evening, but were certain that the warmth of the day made all search after her, till then, of no great use; however, we flew the falcon, which killed a brace of birds, and then ordering the morning dogs and hawks to be taken home, those for the afternoon being arrived, I proceeded, as the dogs grew cooler, to recover my lost credit.

The pointers soon stood, and I came forward, but could not get a shot, except at a great distance, so much had Mr. Drighorn's mode of shooting spoiled the two dogs I had lent him. I therefore caution gentlemen always to keep their own dogs scrupulously to themselves, and to have a set allotted to strangers; for many good sportsmen differ in their manner of treating their dogs; some care not how their dogs behave, provided they can get shots.

I conceive the great pleasure and elegance of shooting depends on the good order in which the dogs are kept.

I never saw two dogs more savage; and though they never committed a fault unpunished, still it was above two hours before I could make them attend; they then behaved better, and I shot incomparably.

On our return we stopped, and attentively admired, for some time, a most elegant water-fall above the encampment, which, though perhaps not so magnificent as some others, is infinitely more elegant in its breaks, and its beauty is very considerably heightened by a great quantity of stunted, picturesque trees, that shade and simply seem to hang over the face of the rock. The tints also are very bold and various, more so than I ever saw before in one assemblage. On the edges are millions of bley, or blue, berries, now ripe, of which I ate most plentifully, as I found them very cooling and refreshing.

The dogs stood; but I felt myself so idle, that it was with difficulty I rose and killed a brace of birds; one a very difficult shot: still this induced me to proceed to higher ground, hoping to get more wind. There I found plenty of game, and never shot better.

I now gave up my double-barrel gun for the season; and here I must

remark, that I look upon all double-barrels as trifles, rather nick-knacks than useful.

Met with the Laird of Sheeme and Captain J. M'Pherson of Indereschy; the former was an old college companion of mine, and, not having seen him for many years, I was particularly happy to shake hands with him thus unexpectedly. They did me the honour to return, and dine with me in camp, where, on our arrival, every thing was made as comfortable as possible; and we soon dispelled Mr. P.'s apprehensions of catching cold. No rooms, in fact, could be warmer than our tents, as they were not only well made, and of excellent stuff, but were well floored, had good doors, and a stove when wanted.

The Laird, being a great falconer, was much gratified in seeing Miss M'Gee, an incomparable falcon (at our meeting on Lawson's fist) fly. We found some partridges in very unfavourable ground, but, after very pretty sport, she killed one.

The dinner I had to offer these gentlemen, was purely an accidental one; but, from its novelty, I must give it.

A hodge podge.

REMOVE.

A roast pike of seven pounds.

Sauces.

Greens—Rein deer's tongue—potatoes.

Chickens.

SECOND COURSE.

Loin of Mutton.

Black-game and Partridge.

Currant-jelly, Capsicum, Elder, Garlick, Vinegars.

Powerade and Char.

A Carving.

Biscuits, Stilton-cheese, Cheshire, Butter,

Goats' Milk.

We passed a very long evening, though it appeared a very short one, and the Laird left me at half past two.

September 16.—From the appearance of the preceding evening, we had flattered ourselves with the hopes of a very fine day, and accordingly had ordered our servants to awake us at an early hour; but, the morning being extremely unfavourable, they prudently allowed us to sleep till nine o'clock.

When we arose, we found that the weather foreboded a bad day; we therefore ordered plenty of fuel in our bothée, and, after breakfast, sat down to read. But it cleared up, and we ordered the hawks to be lifted, being determined to take a flight on the edge of Croke Franc, and to sling our guns, in order to shoot when an opportunity offered; keeping always within two hundred yards of camp, that we might the more readily shelter ourselves from any heavy shower.

I think I never saw better flights, we keeping the heights. The hawks drove the game into the junipers below us, by which means we had the sport without the fatigue, and they killed every bird they flew at, also laying many others.

Saw two very large eagles on the edge of Croke Franc*. The views

* There is an eyrie of eagles in one of the cliffs of the Moneries, as there also is on Croke Franc, and many other mountains in the vicinity of Raits. A Highlandman, with eminent danger, took the eaglet, which was offered to me with the idea, that I possibly might break it in, like hawks, for game. Mr. Lawson attempted it some years since, but they cannot be made any use of, from their immense weight, and from the shape of their wings. They can have no speed, except when at their place: then, to be sure, their weight increases their velocity, and they certainly aim with an incredible swiftness, like a cannon ball, seldom missing their quarry. From their unwieldy make and prodigious appetite, they are inconvenient, expensive birds in a menagerie. Their nest is similar to that of a she falcon, about one yard over, roundish, and made with twigs laid on the rock.

A Highlander here has taken a young eaglet, for there is rarely above one and an addled egg, and by tethering it, and watching the old ones, which regularly came to feed it, and taking away such provisions as they bring, which consist of fawns of the roe, lambs, kids, hares, black game, grouse, or ptarmigants, wild-ducks, &c. he amply supplies his family for some weeks; consequently it is a great acquisition to him.

The old ones are bold to a degree when the eyrie is attacked, and as the robber must be let down by ropes, it makes it a perilous attempt. A falconer was killed here some years since, by the ignorant people, who attended, pulling up the ropes, and jamming his head between two rocks.

from the mountains were wonderfully fine, the vales of Badenoch and Spey, with that beautiful rapid river, winding and forming numberless sharp turns, creating apparently, a multitude of different-shaped islands, covered with most excellent grass; and Loch Inch, appearing like a sheet of glass; the different large fir forests at a distance, and the small coppices of hanging birch, intermixed with others of oak, all varying in their shape and size, contrasted by wild rocks, and immense, huge, stupendous mountains, reflecting different shades, and seen in as many different forms; certainly exhibited a scene, such as no pencil can draw, or imagination paint.

The purple dawning o'er the mountains flow'd,
 The forest-boughs with yellow splendour glow'd;
 High from the steep two glassy streams
 Roll'd down, and glitter'd in the morning beams;
 Here warriors, monsters of the wild, were seen,
 And birds of plumage, azure, black, and green;
 Here various herbs, and flowers of various bloom,
 There black as night the forest's horrid gloom,
 Whose shaggy brakes, by human step untrod,
 Darken'd the wild-cat's deep and drear abode.

South Britons may talk of their beautiful, highly-finished landscapes, of which I have seen the most deserving to be viewed in England, and have been pleased with their elegance and neatness; but from their small, pitiful extent*, they soon grow flat, and lose their effect. Here the case differs;

either by accident, or, as has been suspected, by design; but I never heard of any person having suffered, following the same experiment after eagles. However, they are both dangerous attempts.

Eagles and hawks always keep the same cyries: if the one is killed, the other soon gets a mate; and I know it to be fact in falconry, that an eyrie, famous for its hawks, was esteemed, and proved good, they retaining alike the merits or demerits of their ancestors. This is very easily accounted for, as it stands to reason that no hawks could exhibit in a country they cannot procure food in; consequently, they naturally will resort to such places as their speed, or strength, and nature, mark out to them as proper.

These eagles, according to *Linnaeus*, in his last edition, are the Erne, or *Vulture Albicilla*.

There are two species, which I have seen when destroyed, and have examined attentively.

* Lord Clifford's, near Bristol, is an exception.

for the immense extent of these views, and the reflection of the sun, presenting various tints, each differing from another, though all beautiful, give this country every advantage, and a decided superiority over all the laboured works of a Brown or a White. Those, that conceive I am partial, on viewing these scenes, will, I am confident, agree with me.

We were soon forced to retreat, on the appearance of a very heavy squall of wind, which we well knew would in a little time reach us; we therefore, trotted to camp, and just got under canvass as it began to pour.

September 17.—Order preparations to be made for our return to Raits, and to break up the encampment. We had shot separately: the birds were exceedingly wild, and the falcon having gorged herself, could not be made use of: hoped, nevertheless, the day might still clear up, and, having game at my door, made no doubt of some sport.

Found a very polite invitation from Colonel M'Pherson and the clan, requesting me to dine with them the next day, which was set apart for general festivity and rejoicing, on account of a late public event, considered by them as a most advantageous revolution in their favour.

The act of parliament, restoring the estates forfeited, in Scotland, by the rebellion in 1745, to the respective heirs, received the royal assent on the twentieth of August; the bill was perfectly approved in the House of Commons; though, in my opinion, not only as a friend to the claimants, whose success every man, possessed of any feeling, must rejoice at; but likewise, for the public interest, it required the strictest investigation and attention, to make it answer all the good purposes, which the present act will not effect.

In the House of Lords it was opposed by the lord chancellor, both on the grounds of its impolicy and its partiality. It was impolitic, he said, as far as it rendered nugatory the settled maxim of the British constitution—that treason was a crime of so deep a dye, that nothing was adequate to its punishment, but the total eradication of the person, the name, and the family, out of the society which he had attempted to hurt. This was the wisdom

of former times; but if a more enlightened age chose to relax from the established severity, he thought it ought to be done with gravity and deliberation. His lordship added, that it was partial, because the estates, forfeited in 1715; and which were forfeited upon the same grounds and principles as those in 1745, were passed over in silence, whilst even a person, who had forfeited in 1690, was included in the provision.

There was certainly a fair opening for opposing the bill in the House of Commons, and at least new modelling it; which was prevented, I fear, more from private than public views. Considerable sums are appropriated by the act, to the completing of sundry public works, begun in Scotland, to be paid out of these restored estates: such as some public edifices at Edinburgh, &c. which could not be finished without such an aid: but the chief of these works, the finishing the noble canal of Glasgow, for which a large sum of money is allotted, and, in which some powerful members of the House of Commons are particularly interested, silenced any opposition that might otherwise have been made by the minority, to which party they belonged.

The present act, though it carried with it at first the appearance of great liberality, will not be attended with those advantages, at least to the present possessors of the restored estates, which might have been expected from such an unprecedented instance of royal clemency, owing to the following causes:

I found, by conversing with some intelligent Highlanders, that, after the forfeiture, in order to serve their clans, and disappoint government, many false debts and pretended mortgages were added to the just demands on the estates, which the agents for government were obliged to pay off. As the interest on these sums has accumulated, this, together with the charges made by the agents for improvements; the allotment of specific sums out of each for the public works; and, the buying up the leases that were outstanding; amounted, in many cases, to nearly the value of the estates, and to such of the present proprietors, as are not opulent, the acquisition is ra-

ther ideal than substantial, as they were obliged to raise money in a disadvantageous manner, to discharge all these incumbrances.

In the interim, passed a very agreeable day, having the company of Captain M^cP. This gentleman had been a captain in the year 1745, and amused me with genuine accounts of what had passed in the rebel army, and, as I had just been reading an account of that horrid period, he threw several new lights on confused parts of the history of those times. He himself was long a prisoner, and narrowly escaped with his life, evidence only being wanted against him. His colleague, Lockmudart, who was taken with him, was actually executed.

The artful deceptions of the French government, which, in the wars succeeding the union, constantly made it a part of its political system to excite commotions in North Britain, must, in a great degree, extenuate the crime of the rebellion in 1745; for which many persons of good families, and possessing considerable estates, were capitally punished; whilst the lenity shown to others has been well rewarded by the services they, or their posterity, have rendered to their country.

Such, for instance, was the gallant conduct of General Fraser, son of Lord Lovat, who suffered for his rebellion, that the legislature gave the most honourable testimony to his merit in 1774, by restoring to him the forfeited estates of his father. No patent for nobility ever conveyed greater glory to any man than the preamble to the act for that purpose has done to this gentleman.

The bulk of Lord Lovat's estate lies in the vicinity of Inverness, the rest, to the value of five hundred pounds per annum, in Strathwick. He was a potent chieftain, and could raise about a thousand men; but I found his neighbours spoke as unfavourably of his character as his enemies ever did in the most distant parts of the kingdom. His property, before it was restored to his son, was one of the annexed estates, that are settled unalienably in the crown, as all the forfeited estates are; the whole value of which brought in, at that time, about six thousand pounds a year in the Highlands, and those in the Lowlands about the same sum; so that the

power and interest of poor twelve thousand a year, spread general terror, and had nearly subverted the constitution of two great kingdoms.

General Fraser's successes occasioned numberless applications to government, from the Leirs of other forfeited estates, who, perhaps, justly conceived that they ought not to suffer for the crimes of their ancestors; but a general refusal was given at that time to their requests, which have since been taken into consideration; and, it is now thought, that such an act of clemency, which will do honour to the crown, and to administration, is likely to take place.

The profits of these estates, at present, are lodged in the hands of trustees, who apply their revenues to the founding of schools, for the instruction of children in spinning: wheels are likewise given to poor families, and flax-seed to farmers. Some money is given in aid of the roads, and towards building bridges over the torrents, by which means a ready intercourse is made between parts before inaccessible to strangers. Other sums are appropriated to different public works; and the factors, as they are called here, or agents, to these estates, are allowed all the money they expend on planting.

In 1753, a large sum was spent on a Utopian scheme, of establishing colonies of disbanded soldiers and sailors on the forfeited estates. Comfortable houses were built for them, land and money was given, and more lent; but the success by no means answered the intentions of the proprietors. Perhaps, the restoration of these estates to their respective heirs may be the most political, as well as the most beneficial, plan; but still it is liable to some weighty objections.

It cleared up about six; went out, and, in less than half an hour, at the tent door, killed fourteen birds, and Crosly killed eighteen famous trout.

Mr. M.P. having waited so long, I could not allow him, with decency, to go over the moors at so late an hour, and having ordered the other tents to be struck that day, in order to adjust the poles, &c. I was obliged to make up a cot for him in my *marquée*, and really, to do him justice, he snored most powerfully.

Returns; killed twenty-two moor-game; hawks one; trout eighteen.

September .18—This day it blew most violently, but otherwise fine. The morning was taken up with ordering illuminations and bonfires in honour of the day; and the housekeeper was directed to send to Colonel M'Pherson's whatever Raits afforded, that might, in any respect, prove acceptable at the feast intended to be given.

Mr. Gerrard accompanied me to Pitmain, Mr. Parkhurst regretting very much that his health was not sufficiently established to admit him to gratify his curiosity, by attending so festive a meeting as the present, from all its circumstances, promised to be.

On our arrival, we found a large party of gentlemen already assembled, and the area full of the lower class of the clan of M'Pherson. Other gentlemen were likewise continually ushering in from all parts, some of whom came above sixty miles; so happy were they to testify their regard for the present possessor of the estate; in short, no words can express the joy that was exhibited in every countenance.

The ladies too, not that I think it singular, seemed to me, to enter more heartily, if possible, into the joys of the day than the men; the *toute ensemble* made this meeting interesting enough.

At most public meetings there are some discontented mortals, who rather check than inspire mirth; the case here was quite the reverse; with that perfect innocence which abounds in the Highlands, joined to the *clannish* regard, not totally removed by luxury and knowledge of the world, every individual added something, and exerted himself to promote the common cause.

At five o'clock dinner was announced, and each gentleman, with the utmost gallantry, handed in his tartan-drest partner. The table was covered with every luxury the vales of Badenoch, Spey, and Lochaber could produce, and a very substantial entertainment it was; game of all kinds, and venison in abundance, did honour to Mr. M'Lean who supplied it.

I had no conception of any room at Pitmain large enough to dine one-tenth of the party, but found that the apartment we were in, though low, was about fifty feet long, and was only used, being a malt kiln, on such occasions.

When seated, no company at St. James's ever exhibited a greater variety of gaudy colours, the ladies being dressed in all their Highland pride, each following her own fancy, and wearing a shawl of tartan; this contrasted by the other parts of the dress, at candle light, presented a most glaring *coup d'œil*.

The dinner being removed, was succeeded by a dessert of Highland fruits, when, I may venture to say, that "George the Third, and long may he reign," was drank with as much unfeigned loyalty as ever it was at London; several other toasts were likewise drank with three cheers, and re-echoed by the inferiors of the clan in the area around us.

The ladies gave us several very delightful Erse songs, nor were the bag-pipes silent; they played many old Highland tunes; and, among others, one, which is, I am told, the test of a piper's abilities; for, at the great meeting of the pipers at Falkirk, those who cannot play it, are not admitted candidates for the annual prize given to the best performer. After the ladies had retired, the wine went round plentifully, but, to the honour of the conductor of this festive board, every thing was regulated with the utmost propriety, and, as we were in possession of the only room for dancing, we rose the earlier from table, in compliance with the wishes of the ladies, who in this country, are still more keen dancers than those of the southern parts of Britain.

After tea, the room being adjusted and the band ready, we returned; and, minuets being, by common consent, exploded, danced, with true Highland spirit, a great number of different reels, some of which were danced with the genuine Highland fling, a peculiar kind of cut.

It is astonishing how true these ladies all dance to time, and not without grace; they would be thought good dancers in any assembly whatever.

At ten o'clock, the company repaired to the terrace adjoining to the house, to behold as fine a scene, of its kind, as perhaps ever was exhibited.

Bonfires in towns are only simple assemblages of inflammable matter, and have nothing but the cause of rejoicing to recommend them; but here, the country people, vying with each other, had gathered together large piles of

wood, peat, and dry heather, on the tops of the different hills and mountains, which, by means of signals, being all lighted at the same time, formed a most awful and magnificent spectacle, representing so many volcanos, which, owing to their immense height, and the night being totally dark and serene, were distinctly seen at the distance of ten miles. And, while our eyes were gratified with this solemn view, our ears were no less delighted with the different bagpipes playing round us; when, after giving three cheers to the king, and the same to Mr. Pitt, &c. we returned into the ball-room.

At once I withdrew, took some refreshment, and then returned home, highly delighted at having passed the day so very agreeably.

September 19.—Day quite boisterous. Having heard from some gentlemen at the ball, that there was not the least wind ten miles off, when it blew a hurricane here, I hoped that near Avemore it might at least be calmer. I had the day before sent the *Ville de Paris* by water, with my rifle and destruction guns, the hawks, pointers, &c. and Mr. Parkhurst's apparatus, intending to take some sport of the different kinds, in the neighbourhood of Glenmore. Came to Avemore, and found from Crosly, that, owing to the immense waves on Loch Inch, and the rapidity of the currents, he had more than once been nearly upset, but with difficulty had, at length, executed his orders.

Without much prospect of success, I tried a moor where I had formerly seen some few black game; but though no ground was ever more closely ranged for four hours, in all that time I did not see a bird of any kind. At last, one of the dogs pointed, as I conceived at a duck, and so it proved; though I was barely dismounted, and at a great distance, I took a scrambling shot, hoping, if I wounded it slightly, I might have a flight with the hawk; but it did not appear that I touched it.

Having hunted the dogs across the moor with no better success, I made the best of my way to Lawson's Gulph, expecting, though it blew a hurricane, that I might fish with pleasure, under the wind, in some of the creeks. In our way, we flushed a brace of old barren moor-game, and conceiving they had lighted not far off, I determined to try the falcon; they were wild

and sprang before us, but we marked one, and resolved to fly him; however, he would not let us come within three hundred yards of him. Unfavourable as the day was, I still wished to try the Duchess at ducks; accordingly, I went down to a lake, partly rushes and partly water, and soon found some, and we had several good flights; but though she behaved most capitally, we were not so fortunate as to kill any, for, when pressed, they always took to the lake, and the dogs, owing to the high wind, could not hear us. One flight, round the lake, and to a great height in the air, could not be less than five miles.

We took her in, fed her up, and went on to Lawson's Gulph; found the boat, and my trolling apparatus ready, and the fox-hounds baited and turned off; but no account of Mr. Parkhurst, who intended to try for partridges, and promised to join me by five, in order that we might dine together. My repast was soon finished, and I trolled for some time in one of the creeks without success, not thinking it either prudent, or indeed of any use, to try the main lake; however, I at length ventured it, and, though boisterous, it was not so bad as we had apprehended; I found a fish strike, and by his running out all my line, I hoped he would prove a very fine one. He threw himself out of the water, as they always do here, and I then saw he was an antagonist of some consequence; after much sport I landed him, and I think I never saw a fatter, better fed pike: he was more like a carp than a pike, and might weigh about twenty pounds; I killed four more from nine to five pounds.

Mr. Parkhurst now coming up, I found he had had no better success than I in shooting. We examined the fox-hounds, but in vain; and, that he might kill a pike, we attempted to go down the lake, and narrowly escaped a ducking at least, if not some danger; for the wind coming in blasts, accompanied by heavy rain, forced us to remain on our oars, for some time, close to the shore, when it rather abated, and we took the opportunity, by coasting, to get into the creek, where we directed every thing to be packed up, to go to supper.

Ordering fresh clothes, and finding that Mr. Anderson had got wet to the skin, in attempting to come to us, we went and supped at Kingeraig,

and there found the landlord had got his chief, the Laird of M'Intosh, and had sent me an invitation, in order to introduce me to him.

Dry clothes, &c. having been sent from Raits, I dressed: was introduced to the Laird of Dalmaguiy, likewise, father of the handsome Miss A. M'P.

Had a steady party at whist, and passed a very pleasant evening in spite of the weather, for it rained piteously.

Returns; five pike, fifteen trout.

September 21.—Day perfectly pleasant and serene. Returned to Raits, in order to receive some strangers, and in our way attended divine service. Gave orders for the gig and the necessary apparatus to be got ready, to go to Gordon Castle.

September 22.—Day very pleasant; but too calm for roebuck shooting, which I intended to attempt, at Glenmore and Rothemurcos, having sent to Mr. Stewart, the Duke of Gordon's head forester, to meet me; which he did accordingly; and the wind getting up with the day, I dispatched two servants to the boat, with such refreshments and apparatus as I should want, particularly my pike-tackle, in case my other amusements should prove unsuccessful.

Proceeded, in order to meet the above gentleman, and, after he had joined us, we found a covey of partridges; flew the tercel, which soon killed a brace, and then, leaving the hawks with Mr. Parkhurst, went on with Mr. Stewart, and soon got into the most likely harbours for both stag and roebuck, and, if I could have gotten within a hundred yards of either, I looked upon myself as pretty secure of success, having set my rifle very exactly.

I am generally as quick sighted as most sportsmen; but could not now see a roebuck which was within fifteen yards of me. My companion, who was behind me, saw it, and touched me with his pole; but two large, bushy fir-trees, between me and the animal, intercepted my view; for, though I looked very attentively, I could not get the least glimpse of him. It seems he made one bound, and there was an end of my chance; though it can scarce be called a chance; for, by his account of the small distance, if I had been so fortunate to get sight of him, he must have died.

Our search having been tedious, and the day warm, we were tempted by the vast quantity of bley berries under our feet; and, sitting down, did not barely eat, but absolutely devoured this cooling, delicious fruit, which certainly is very innocent, or we must both have felt the effects of making so free with it.

We now proceeded to the lake, and found the boat; but the servants were not yet arrived: we, therefore, again took a wide cast, but could see no roebuck returned. We then halted, on seeing the servants coming up, and getting my pike-tackle from them, I trolled in those parts of the lake where Mr. Stewart assured me there was the greatest plenty of pike; but I had no success, not a single rise.

Understanding that my prospect for roebuck was more certain at Dulton, and not having a single day to spare, I relinquished my plan of sleeping at Glenmore; and, though now near seven o'clock, and my road ten miles through the forest, I determined to get to Avemore, taking Mr. Stewart part of the way, still trying for our game, as we went over ground the most likely I ever saw; but, not finding any, to oblige him, before we parted, I shot at a mark on a large stone at the distance of eighty yards, which I hit, to his astonishment, and, in some degree, to mine. though I knew I could hit a crown-piece at a greater distance, having done it frequently.

Got to our inn at Avemore about ten, to the great joy of Mr. Parkhurst, who had been rather out of spirits, from being left alone. He gave me an account of some good flights; of his sport in shooting, and that he had seen a roebuck near Lawson's Gulph.

Returns; Mr. Parkhurst shot five moor-game; hawks killed four; ditto eight partridges.

The house being full, I gave up my bed to a *lady*, happy to find, on farther enquiry, that this act of civility had been shown to Mrs. —, a Yorkshire lady, with whom I had the pleasure of being acquainted: had the landlord, who is certainly a most unfit man for his station, informed me that she was an English lady, or mentioned her name in time, I should easily

have induced her, in such a retired place as this, to have waved that form, though necessary elsewhere, and have prevailed on her to favour us with her company at supper.

The intelligence of the lady's name came too late; but gave me an opportunity of requesting permission to pay my compliments to her in the morning. I received for answer, that she was indispensably obliged to set out early, but if I could breakfast at the Gothic hour of six, she should be glad of my company.

September 23.—Day most desirable for my pursuit. Got up by six o'clock, and, after breakfast, went towards camp, expecting the Laird of M'Intosh, for whom the hawks were kept hooded, and almost ruined for want of Mr. P. and Captain M'Intosh to shoot: they soon, however, met me with the pointers; for I had no wish to mix mine with such lewd dogs as Highland pointers are, and we afterwards separated, each following his own plan: and, now having given my bullet-gun to one of my servants, and my shot-gun to another, I ordered them to take a pointer, *in utrumque paratus*, either for roebuck or black-game, and to proceed on the road, where I should soon overtake them on horseback.

Setting out soon after, I met with the fox-hunter of this district, who not only undertook to procure me the certainty of a shot at a roebuck, but very obligingly attended me.

I trotted on, and he followed me on foot, running as fast as my shooting poney could amble.

When we came to the place where I expected to meet the servants, no tidings whatever could be obtained concerning them. We tried another road, but in vain. We then ascended a high mountain, in order to see and be seen; and, though, we could perceive several people distinctly, we could not discern any thing of our party, who were easily to be distinguished by their number and their white dogs in a lease. After a fruitless search, I gave up the pursuit, and confess I felt the disappointment the more, as the getting a roebuck, which I much wanted for Mr. Gerrard to draw, seemed morally certain, with such a guide, if I had had my gun.

I now changed my plan, and leaving the fox-hunter, turned back towards Avermore, intending to dine with my worthy friends, the Rothemurcos. Met Mr. Parkhurst, who had quitted his companions with the hawks. Took a few flights with him, then went home, dressed, and proceeded. In my way, was highly pleased with passing by, and admiring some immense piles of fir-planks, ready for floating down the river, with the first fresh in the water.

Received with a most hearty welcome, and sat down to an excellent dinner.

On my return to Avermore in the evening, I had no guide to cross the ford, having dismissed the man sent to conduct me, thinking I could find my way very well; but the difference between day and night, not having been this way before, gave me some trouble. At length, coming to the river, in order to try my mare, (which seemed to me to know perfectly well what she was about), I laid the reins on her neck, and leaving her totally to herself, she brought me, exactly by the same road we had come in the morning, safe to Avermore. Here the Laird and Captain M'Intosh joined us, and, meeting with the gentlemen who had dined with me at Rothemurcos, I invited them, and the whole party did me the honour to sup with me.

We passed a very jolly evening, and had some excellent songs.

Returns; Mr. Parkhurst shot one moor-game, three partridges; Captain M'Intosh, three brace and a half; hawks, with the Laird of M'Intosh, three brace; Crosly killed eleven trout.

September 24.—Morning horrid: in a short time it rather appeared to improve; and, as every thing was fixed for breaking up the encampment, and all the cavalry come up, to remove our apparatus, our dairy-maid and cows gone, we set out, that is to say, Lawson and myself, leaving the gentlemen and cavalry to come at their leisure. We soon got a complete ducking: my Highland friends got also pretty handsomely soured, nor were the cavalry and their attendants better off; the whole party were like so many drowned rats.

Had the honour of four gentlemen, and three very handsome ladies, to dine with me; one of the latter was the great *belle* of Badenoch, whom I have had occasion to mention before.

Miss A. M^cP. is really a very healthy, fine girl, perfectly easy and affable; and, having introduced myself to her again here, in the Scotch way*, I found her less coy.

Instituted a whist party, which was to continue whilst I remained here, the company spending the evening.

September 25.—Went out at eleven, and, to vary the scene, killed fourteen partridges full grown, and three brace of snipes; and as hawks' meat, the gentlemen's palate being glutted with game†, by way of a *bon bouche*, killed them a carrion and two magpies. Tercels, seven partridges.

Ordered some hounds to be thrown into the wood at Raits, and soon unkenelled a fox‡ which was murdered; he had done much damage among the sheep; tried for some roebucks, roused a brace and a half, but not coming near me, or Jonas, who had *Orson*§ ready to slip, but taking soil, they swam to an island, and, the waters being much out, did not get either a shot or a hound.

Lawson coming from Raits early, saw three roebucks near the house. Dined at Rothemurcos, and passed the evening. I went there in hopes of meeting his Grace of Gordon, and of giving him my thanks for the civilities shown me and my party; but some material business prevented him from coming.

Mr. Grant of Rothemurcos has built a very commodious house, not in the best situation, though his table, &c. is the most enviable in the world, as is his estate. He was an acquaintance of mine when I was here before.

As a proof that his table is well served, I will only mention that he has added, to every other luxury, what few possess, viz. roebucks, cairvauns, hare,

* That is by saluting, or, in plain English; kissing her.

† A variety of food, which, in a state of nature, they constantly are procuring, is absolutely necessary to keep up their appetite; the first requisite in hawks.

‡ Foxes here are very numerous, and extremely destructive to lambs and kids.

§ The deer hound.

black game, dottrel, white game, partridges, ducks, and snipes; salmon, pike, trout, char, par, lampreys and eels, all of which are in abundance upon his estate.

Ate some uncommonly fine char, fresh caught, much superior to any I had ever tasted before; they were absolutely a lump of fat. These fish, when fresh, have a taste something similar to that of a herring; a large pot of them Mr. Grant was pleased to order to be sent me.

September 26.—Day very calm. Rose early, intending to proceed on my journey to Gordon Castle; but, imagining that Forres would be far enough for the horses, and having forwarded the gig, I amused myself a few hours in trolling Loch Alva, and had excellent sport, killing five pike, one of which weighed fifteen pounds, the rest from six to nine pounds. After breakfast, set out for Grantown, over a dreary moor; the road good, and not very hilly, but encumbered by some exceeding large stones, or fragments of rocks in the centre, which ought to be blown up, being extremely dangerous at night to the traveller. Within three miles of Grantown, the scene becomes more interesting, from the magnificence of the large woods, chequered with hanging banks of birch, amongst which arises, overtopping the whole,

CASTLE GRANT.

This castle is a very large building, partly ancient, partly modern, and conveys an idea of the weight of the old feudal chieftains.

I had the satisfaction to pass some days here, when I was in this country, many years since, and never enjoyed more hospitable conviviality. The late Sir L. Grant was then living, a jovial companion and a worthy man, much esteemed and respected on these accounts, as well as for adapting himself to the manners of the people with whom he lived.

I was astonished to observe how very much all ranks of people were changed in their manners in the course of ten or twelve years. Luxury and effeminacy have proportionably found their way hither, and through the facility of intercourse with the South, by means of the high military roads, have almost totally destroyed the power of the chieftains.

Sir James Grant, the present Laird of Grant, is a man of the most amiable character, and his attempts to improve his estate have not failed of that success which such great undertakings deserve.

His immense plantations are all in a thriving condition; and though plantations do not yield any profit but in a great length of time, still I think Sir James has a fair prospect of living to behold and enjoy the fruits of his labour.

The inn at Grantown is very neat and clean, and so cheap a bill I scarcely ever met with. Rain came on instead of a moist mist, which had fallen when I alighted: however, I resolved to proceed for Forres, the road, from all the enquiries I had made, being reported to be excellent, and a gentle descent. I am sorry to say, however, that I found it, on the contrary, in many parts not only bad, but execrable—by far the very worst I ever travelled. In some places it is certainly very passable, but, in general, it is covered with a multiplicity of large, loose stones, and the *runners* are absolute destruction to any carriage, going even at a moderate pace. After leaving Sir James Grant's improvements, nothing either beautiful or luxurious is seen for many miles.

The moors, indeed, seem very even, and well adapted for shooting, which may be followed more conveniently here, on horseback, than in any place in Scotland*.

* Grantown was, for some time, the residence of the celebrated Scottish lawyer, Sir Thomas Hope of Craigiehall; and at Roystoun resided Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbat, afterwards Earl of Cromarty, a no less crafty and subtle statesman than he whom he opposed, and eventually, on his downfall, succeeded (namely, the noted Duke of Lauderdale), in the year 1678, and became prime minister of Scotland till the revolution. Obtaining pardon for all crimes and misdemeanors, he retired to his paternal seat in Ross-shire, where he died at the advanced age of eighty-four, a few days before his royal mistress, Queen Anne, who breathed her last in August 1714. From the year 1763 to 1780, the mansion-house of Caroline Park, and the fields adjacent, were in the possession of the late Sir James Adolphus Oughton, K. B. deputy commander in chief of the land forces in Scotland. To the character of a soldier he united the humanity and mental acquirements of a man of letters. Among other studies, he bestowed no small attention in acquiring a certain degree of knowledge in the Gaelic language, with an intention of understanding the poems ascribed to Ossian in the original. It is worthy of remark, that Sir James Adolphus Oughton, and the late Sir James Fowlis of Collington, were of the very few whom curiosity prompted to learn the Gaelic language,

After a drive of some miles, the eye is gratified by a very pretty romantic valley, bearing in its bottom evident marks of fertility. The beautiful and rapid river, Findhorn, meanders through it, and, at the end of this circus, you discover Logie, the seat of Mr. Cumming, the situation of which may vie with Faskally.

About four miles farther on, a fine view is obtained of the low part of this country; it is very similar to the plains in Germany, totally undivided by any fence; but it has the advantage over any part I saw there, being chequered by an infinite number of neat, elegant, fair-looking mansions, amongst which is distinctly seen Brodie, a large and convenient mansion, adorned with various improvements; inclosures, planting, stately avenues, vistas cut through the adjacent wood, &c. It is remarkable, that neither written record nor oral tradition hints that these lands ever owned the sway of any other proprietors than those of the name of Brodie. Here I was most hospitably received some years past, and now lamented my inability to pay my respects to the Laird and Lady Mary.

About three miles further is Tarnaway Castle, the ancient seat of the earls of Murray. The hall, called Randolph's Hall, from its founder Earl Randolph, one of the great supporters of Robert Bruce, is timbered at top like Westminster-hall: its dimensions are seventy-nine feet by thirty-five feet ten inches, and it seems a fit resort for barons and their vassals. In the rooms are some good heads; one of a youth, with a ribbon of some order hanging from his neck; Sir William Balfour, with a black body to his vest, and brown sleeves, a gallant commander on the parliament's side, in the civil wars; celebrated for his retreat with the body of horse from Lestwithiel, in face of the king's army, but justly branded with ingratitude to his master, who, by his favour to Sir William in the beginning of his reign, added to the popular discontents then arising: the *fair*, or *bonny* Earl of Murray, as he is com-

for the purpose of listening to the wild and energetic fancies, the plaintive and soothing song, of the Celtic bard. On this spot the Earl of Hertford landed his troops in the year 1544, at the command of Henry VIII. to take vengeance on the Scots for refusing their young Queen to his son Edward.—CAMPELL.

monly called, who was murdered (as is supposed) on account of a jealousy James IV. entertained of a passion the Queen had for him; at least such was the popular opinion, as appears from the old ballad on the occasion :

"He was a braw gallant,
And he played at the gluve*,
And the bonny Earl of Murray,
Oh! he was the Queen's love.

"Then furth he drew his trusty *glaive*,
Quhyle thousands all around,
Drawn frae the sheaths, glanst in the sun†."

These are, besides the heads of his lady and daughter, all on wood, except that of the earl. To the south side of the castle are large birch woods, abounding with stags and roes.

As I approached Forres, the road improved, and was crowded with numbers of the country people, both men and women, who adopt the Lowland fashions, the men not retaining the least mark of the Highland dress, which is entirely exploded, except the bonnet, and even that has here a different shape, not near so smart as the Highland; and in their persons they want that lively gait peculiar to a Highlander; nor are the women, in my opinion, better featured.

Near Forres, on the road side, is a vast column, three feet ten inches broad, and one foot three inches thick: the height above ground is twenty-three, below, as it is said, twelve or fifteen. On one side are numbers of rude figures of animals, and armed men, with colours flying; some of the men seemed bound like captives. On the opposite side was a cross, included in a circle, and raised a little above the surface of the stone. At the foot of the cross are two gigantic figures, and, on one of the sides, is some elegant fretwork.

This is called King Sueno's stone, and seems to be, as Mr. Gordon con-

* For *glaive*, an old word for a sword.—HARDYKNUTE.

† Pennant.

jectures, erected by the Scots, in memory of the final retreat of the Danes. It is evidently not Danish, as some have asserted: the cross disproves the opinion, for that nation had not then received the light of Christianity.

FORRES.

On my entrance into Forres, found there was a fair, which accounted for the crowd I had met on the road; and, to their credit be it related, I did not see one person intoxicated. The inn I put up at was the Falcon, kept by Barnes, formerly a servant to the Duke of Gordon. I was shown into an extraordinary good room, and, having sent to request the favour of Bailie Forsyth's (my wine merchant) company, I ordered supper, and he passed the evening with me. A very well-served one it was, and I never slept in a more comfortable, plain bedchamber.

September 27.—Morning pleasant, and, in every respect, a very desirable harvest day. I rose early, and took a turn about the town, sending my carriage forward to Elgin. The land, in general, seemed to be in a high state of cultivation, and lets at from three pounds ten shillings to four pounds an acre; but, except close to the town, where its value is determined by convenience, it is a light, sandy soil. I observed that the fields, to the south-east of the town, were neatly inclosed with good hedges. The town itself is very moderate: it is seated under some little hills, which are prettily divided: there is not any thing in it particularly worth seeing.

In the great street is a town-house, with a handsome cupola; and, at the end, an arched gate-way, which has a good effect. On a hill west of the town are the poor remains of the castle, from whence is a fine view of a rich country interspersed with groves, the bay of Findhorn, a fine bason, almost round, with a narrow strait into it from the sea, and a melancholy prospect of the estate of Corobin, in the parish of Dyke, now nearly overwhelmed with sand. This strange inundation is still in motion, but mostly in the time of a west wind. It moves along the surface with an even progression, but is stopped by water, after which it forms little hills. Its motion is so quick, that a gentleman assured me he had seen an apple-tree

so covered with it in one season, as to leave only a few of the green leaves of the upper branches appearing above the surface. An estate of about three hundred pounds per annum has been thus overwhelmed, and it is not long since the chimneys of the principal houses were to be seen. It began about eighty-eight years ago, occasioned by the cutting down the trees, and pulling up the bent, or starwort, which gave occasion at last to the act 15 Geo. II. to prevent its farther ravages, by prohibiting the destruction of that plant.

On a moor, not far from Forres, Boethius, and Shakespear from him, places the rencounter of Macbeth and the three wayward sisters, or witches. It was my fortune to meet with but one, which was some where not remote from the ruins of Kyn-Eden. She was of a species far more dangerous than these, but neither withered nor wild in her attire, but so fair,

"She look'd not like an inhabitant o' th' earth!"

Boethius tells his story admirably well; but entirely confines it to the predictions of the three fatal sisters, which Shakespear has so finely copied in the fourth scene of the first act. The poet, in conformity to the belief of the times, calls them witches: in fact they were the *fates*, the *Valkyriæ** of the northern nations, Gunna, Rota, and Skulda, the hand-maids of Odin, the active Mars, and styled the Chusers of the Slain, it being their office in battle to mark those devoted to death.

"We the reins to slaughter give,
Ours to kill and ours to spare:
Spite of danger he shall live,
(Weave the crimson web of war)†."

* "From *walur*, signifying the slaughter in battle, and *kyria* to obtain by choice: for their office, besides selecting out those that were to die in battle, was to conduct them to Valhalla, the paradise of the brave, the hall of Odin. Their numbers are different, some make them three, others twelve, others fourteen, they are described as being very beautiful, covered with the feathers of swans, and armed with spear and helmet. Vide Bartholinus *decaus contemptu Mortis*, 553, 554, et *notæ vet. Stephani in Sax. Gramm.* 88 et *Torfæus*, p. 36."

† Gray.

Boethius, sensible of part of their business, calls them *Parcæ*: and, Shakespear introduces them just going upon their employ.

“ When shall we three meet again,
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?
When the hurly-burly’s done,
When the battle’s lost or won.”

All the fine incantations, that succeed, are borrowed from the fanciful *Diableries* of old times; but sublimed and purged from all that is ridiculous, by the creative genius of the inimitable poet, of whom Dryden so justly speaks:

But Shakespear’s magic could not copied be,
Within that circle none durst walk but he.

We laugh at the magic of others, but Shakespear’s makes us tremble. The windy caps* of King Eric, and the vendible knots of wind, of the Finland† magicians, appear infinitely ridiculous; but, when our poet dresses up the same idea, how horrible is the storm he creates.

“ Though you untie the winds, and let them fight
Against the churches; though the yesty waves
Confound and swallow navigation up;
Though bladed corn be lodged, and trees blown down;
Though castles topple on their warder’s heads;
Though palaces and pyramids do slope
Their heads to their foundations; though the treasure
Of Nature’s germins tumble all together;
Even till destruction sicken, answer me
To what I ask.”

Proceeded for Elgin, the road most excellent for a horse, and, though sandy, not bad for a carriage.

* King Eric was a great magician, who, by turning his cap, caused the wind to blow according to his mind.

† “ Solebant aliquando Finni negotiatoribus in eorum littoribus contraria ventorum tempestate impeditis, ventum venalem exhibere, mercedeque oblata, tres nodos magicos non cassioticos loro constrictos eisdem reddere, eo servato moderamine ut ubi *primum dissolverint*, ventos haberent placidos; ubi alterum, vehementiores tiores at ubi tertium *laxaverint* ita sævas tempestates se passuros, &c.—*Olaus Magnus de Gent. Sept. 97.*”

Elgin, a town about the size of Forres, has a few good houses in it, which are chiefly built over piazzas; it has little trade excepting its great cattle fairs, but is rich in ecclesiastical antiquities. The people here, as in all the little towns on this coast from Inverness, are employed in making thread and linen, as well as woollen cloth, chiefly for their own use. All these towns, Inverness, Nairn, Forres, and Elgin, have a very dismal appearance, being built of dark stone; nor can they claim the merit of being clean, and Elgin, in filthiness, exceeds them all.

Of the cathedral, a very beautiful old ruin, enough remains to show the exquisite workmanship of which it was formed, and whoever sees it must lament the rude violence of the reformers that reduced it to desolation.

The destruction of this pile was occasioned chiefly by reason of the sale of the lead which covered its roof, which was done in 1567, by order of council, to support the soldiery of the Regent Murray. This destruction is pathetically lamented by Jonston, in his *Encomia Urbium*, which, also, celebrates the beauty of Elgin and its surrounding scenery.

The fragments of this fine building consist of part of the two towers, the west entrance, and the chancel, which still remain, though much mutilated. The centre tower with the spire, and the whole roof, are fallen in, and form a most melancholy heap of ruins, mixed with the battered monuments of knights and prelates.

The west door is very elegant and richly ornamented. The choir beautiful, and has a fine and light gallery running round it; and, at the east end, are two rows of narrow windows, in an excellent Gothic taste. The chapter-house is an octagon, the roof supported by a fine single column, with neat carvings of coats of arms round the capital.

The ornaments, still visible on these venerable remains, are executed in the highest style of relief: the flowers and foliage being often raised entirely from the hollow of the mouldings in which they run.

Boethius says, that Duncan, who was killed by Macbeth at Inverness, lies buried here. Numbers of modern tombstones, also, crowd the place*.

* On several of the tomb stones, I observed, emblematical devices, alluding to the trades of the deceased.

“A proof how difficult it is to eradicate the opinion of local sanctity, even in a religion that effects to despise it.”

The cathedral was founded by Andrew de Moray, in 1224*, on a piece of land granted by Alexander II. and his remains were deposited in the choir, under a tomb of blue marble, in 1244. The great tower was built principally by John Innes, bishop of the see, as appears by the inscription, cut on one of the great pillars: *Hic jacet, in Christo Pater et Dominus, Dominus Johannes de Innes, hujus ecclesie episcopus, qui hoc notabile opus incepit et per sc̃ptennium edificavit*†.

This church stood due east and west, in the form of a passion, or *Jerusalem cross*, the length two hundred and sixty-four feet, the breadth thirty-five feet, the length of the traverse one hundred and fourteen feet; the church was ornamented with five towers, whereof two parallel towers stood on the west end, one in the middle, and two at the east end; the two west towers stand entire in the stone work, and are each eighty-four feet high; what the height of the spires was I do not find; probably they were of wood, and fell down long since. The great tower, in the centre of the nave, stood on two arched pillars, crossing at top, and was, including the spires, one hundred and ninety-eight feet high. The turrets in the east end are still entire, and each has a winding stair-case, leading to a channel, or passage, in the walls, round the whole church. The height of the side walls is thirty-six feet. The great entry was betwixt the two towers in the west end. This gate is a concave arch, twenty-four feet broad in base, and twenty-four in height, terminating in a sharp angle. On each side of the valves, in the sweep of the arch, are eight round and eight fluted pilasters, six and a half feet high, adorned with a chapter, from which arise sixteen pilasters that meet in the key of the arch. Each valve of the door was five feet broad, and about ten feet high. To yield light to this large building, besides the great windows in the porticos, and a row of windows in the wall above, each six feet high, there was, above the gate, a window, of an acute angled arch,

* Keith's Bishop's of Scotland, 81.

† MS. Hist. of the Innes family.

nineteen feet broad in base, and twenty-seven in height; and, in the east end, between the turrets, a row of five parallel windows, each two feet broad and ten high; above these five more, each seven feet high, and over these a circular window, near ten feet diameter: the grand gate, the windows, the pillars, the projecting table, pedestals, and cordons, are adorned with foliage, grapes, and other carvings. The traverse, in length, as above, seems to have been built by the families of Dunbar and Innes; for the north part of it is called the Dunbar's aisle, and the south part the Innes' aisle.

The chapter-house, in which the bishop's privy-council met, stands on the north side of the choir: it is a curious piece of architecture, communicating with the choir by a vaulted vestry. The house is an exact octagon, thirty-four feet high, and the diagonal breadth, within the walls, thirty-seven feet: it is almost a cube, arched and vaulted at top, and, the whole arched roof, supported by one pillar in the centre of the house. Arched pillars, from every angle, terminated in the grand pillar, which is nine feet in circumference, crusted over with sixteen pilasters, and twenty-four feet high, adorned with a chapter, from which arise round pillars, that spread along the roof and join at top; and round the chapter are engraven the arms of several bishops. There is a large window in each of seven sides, the eighth side communicating, as was said, with the choir; and in the north wall are five stalls, cut in niches, for the bishop's ministers of state, viz. the dean, chapter, archdeacon, chancellor, and treasurer; the *dean's stall* is raised a step higher than the other four. This structure of the cathedral came to decay in the following manner, viz. The regent Earl of Murray, 'being obliged to levy some forces, and being straitened in money, appointed, by his privy-council, February 14, 1567-8, the sheriffs of Aberdeen and Murray, with other gentlemen, to take the lead, thatch, or covering, off the cathedrals of Aberdeen and Murray, and to sell it for paying the troops, which was done, and shipped for Holland; but the ship, soon after launched in the sea, sunk with the lead, which it is thought was done by a superstitious Roman Catholic who was captain of it. Of this whole edifice, the chapter-house, the walls of the choir, the western steeple, and the

eastern turrets, remain as yet entire; but the side walls of the nave and the turrets are for the most part fallen, and, Peace Sunday, April 1711, the great tower or steeple in the middle, fell from the foundation.

The cathedral stood within the precinct of the college, near the river side of Lossey: this precinct was walled round with a strong stone wall, and was about one thousand yards in circumference. A part of the walls still remains entire: it had four gates, every one of which probably had (as is apparent the eastern had) an iron-gate, a port-cullis, and a porter's lodge. Within the precincts, the dignified clergy, and all the canons, had houses and gardens; and, without the precincts, towards the town of Elgin, there was a small borough, with a cross, where the churchmen purchased their provisions. The bishop's palace stood at Spynie, a large mile from Elgin: when it was entire, it was the most stately I have seen in any diocese in Scotland. The area of the buildings was an oblong square of sixty yards: in the south-west corner stood a strong tower, vaulted, the wall nine feet thick, with an easy-winding stair-case, a cape-house at top, with a battlement round it. In the other three corners are small towers, with narrow rooms; in the south side of the area there was a chapel and tennis-court; and in other parts were stables and all necessary offices. The gate or entry was in the middle of the east wall, secured by an iron grate and a port-cullis: over the gate stand the arms of Bishop John Innes, and the initial letters of his name, which afford a conjecture that he was the first who built any part of this court. Around the palace was a spacious precinct, with gardens and walks, which now pay twelve pounds sterling to the crown. The lands of Spynie, and the precinct, were granted by the crown to one gentleman after another till the revolution, and, since that time, the precinct continues in the crown, and the lands belong to Mr. Brodie of Spynie, now of Brodie: but the iron grate, the roof, the joists, and all the timber work, were carried off by the former lessees, and now all is in decay*.

The cathedral of Elgin, as well as the town, is said to have been destroyed by Alexander Stewart (son of King Robert II.) Lord Badenoch, called.

* Vide Appendix to Pennant's First Tour in Scotland.

by the clergy, the Wolf of Murray, and the Wolf of Badenoch, owing to his having been excommunicated for keeping violent possession of the bishop's land in that country. This happened in the month of May, 1390; he had, with his followers, burned the town of Forres, with the choir of that church, and the archdeacon's house; and, in June that year, burned the town of Elgin, the church of St. Giles, the hospital of *Maison Dieu*, the celebrated church, with eighteen houses of the canons of the college of Elgin. For this he was made to do penance, and, upon his humble submission, he was absolved by Walter Trail, bishop of St. Andrews, in the black-friars church of Perth, (being first received at the door barefoot, and in sackcloth, and, again, before the high altar, in presence of the king and his nobles) on condition that he would make full reparation to the bishop and church of Murray, and obtain absolution from the pope. Bishop Bar began the rebuilding of the church, and every canon contributed to it, as did every parish in the diocese.

About two miles from Elgin, there is a pretty view of the Frith of Murray to the left, and of several corn-fields to the right, some of which were in stook, and others cutting; but, I was sorry to observe, that the crops were stinted and grain small, so, that in many parts, it apparently would scarcely pay for the labour of sowing or reaping. The farmers, grasping at too much, plough out more than they can manure and weed. If they would content themselves with fewer acres, and manage them well, I am confident they would find their account in it; but they will not easily be convinced of this.

A few miles up from Elgin, in a beautiful sequestered valley, stands the abbey of Pluscardin, renowned, in this part of the country, for its fruit-trees. I have been repeatedly told, that the best fruit-trees in Scotland are found in gardens of old religious houses, and that they are all planted on circular causeways of flat stones. This practice, which appears, at first sight, to be rather a charm than any part of rural economy, was founded on a physical cause. The bed of stone prevented the roots of the trees from striking downwards, gave them a horizontal direction, and brought them

into a wider contact, than they would have otherwise felt, with the genial mould at the surface of the earth, fertilised by the influence of heaven. It is in a similar, though inverse, ratio, that vines, and other fruit, bearing shrubs and trees, are greatly improved by checking their perpendicular growth, and leading them by espaliers along the ground.

The land from hence to Gordon Castle is, in general, new and sandy: the Duke of Gordon has certainly made an infinite number of improvements. To the right and left of the road, on this side of Gordon Castle are plantations of firs, not like plantations in England, of a few paltry acres, but whole mountains are covered for miles together, which, when grown up, an event at no great distance, as they are in a most thriving condition, will add great dignity to the approach, and amply reward the patient improver.

A few miles farther on, you obtain an indistinct view of Gordon Castle, situated in a valley; above it rises a noble forest of firs. The view is broken by some fine clumps of forest trees, which want to be here and there chequered with the fir; as, from a mixture of tints, they would produce that cheerful, pleasant effect, so manifestly visible in the tasty plantations of Holkham. A few miles below Elgin, on a promontory running into the sea, stands the burgh of Moray, a station of the Danes, where they, for some time, maintained a settlement. This head-land, approaching to the form of an island by nature, was wholly insulated by the Danes, about the beginning of the eleventh century, and became one of the most noted places of rendezvous for the northern pirates. The triple ditch and rampart, which defended the neck of the peninsula, are yet entire. These, with an immense mound of earth and stones, surrounding the area of this fort, will long evince its former strength, and the labour bestowed, in order to make it impregnable: half-burnt logs of oak, and other vestiges, prove that this strong-hold was destroyed by fire. Whether this was the *Castra Alata* of the Romans, as some ingenious authors have alleged, or no, we do not pretend to determine.

We came to the ford over our well-known friend the Spey, whom I was

happy to see again: she was in good humour; but the strata of gravel and stones, seen for miles, sufficiently testified her powers when enraged. No river can be, at times, more calm, or more rapid than this; and really the ravages and destruction it makes on the Duke of Gordon's property would render it a serious evil, did it not afford sufficient compensation, in a fishery, now let at one thousand five hundred pounds per annum. The seals, or selks, as they are called here, do infinite mischief, by destroying great quantities of salmon.

In the month of November, numbers of seals* are taken in the vast caverns that open into the sea, and run some hundred yards under ground. Their entrance is narrow, their inside lofty and spacious. The seal-hunters enter these in small boats with torches, which they light as soon as they land, and then, with loud shouts, alarm the animals, which they kill with clubs, as they attempt to pass. This is a hazardous employment; for, should the wind blow hard from the sea, these adventurers are inevitably lost†.

Mr. Oxendon, a friend of mine, is now in this country, engaged in this very singular species of sporting. Selk hunting or fishing, for it is difficult to say which it should be called. His mode of pursuing this amusement, I understand to be by strong nets weighted, and run across any creeks the selks are supposed to be in: they are shot with rifles, and, when taken, they are instantly destroyed.

If the amusement was fairly represented to me, I should not think it very entertaining. Could the animals, by any means, be harpooned, and, afterwards, be played with proper tackling, they might, indeed, afford good diversion. But here my own motto occurs, and prevents all farther remarks:

"De gustibus non est disputandum."

As the ford was said to be rather dangerous for strangers, I ordered the

* Sometimes a large species, twelve feet long, has been killed on the coast; and I have been informed that the same kind are found on the rock Hiskir, one of the western isles.

† For a fuller account, vide Br. Zool. 37.

carrriage to be sent over in the boat, and, walking up to some fishermen, who were trying for salmon, I was accosted by Colonel Maxwell, an old college friend, who politely accompanied me to the castle.

GORDON CASTLE.

This prodigious, yet elegant, pile of building, stands near some large, well-grown woods, and a considerable one of great hollies. It stands rather low, by which it loses part of its grandeur; but great conveniency, no doubt, is found in its situation, during the cold, windy months. This castle was founded by George, second Earl of Huntly, who died in 1501, and was originally called the Castle of the Bog of Giht. It inherited, till of late, very little of its ancient splendor; but the present duke has made considerable additions, in a very elegant style. Mr. Pennant says, he by accident met with an old print, that shows it in all the magnificence described by a singular traveller of the middle of the last century. "Bogagieth," says he, "the Marquis of Huntly's palace, all built of stone, facing the ocean, whose fair front (set prejudice aside) worthily deserves an Englishman's applause for her lofty and majestic towers, and turrets that storm the air, and, seemingly, make dents in the very clouds. At first sight, I must confess, it struck me with admiration to gaze on so gay and regular a frontispiece, more especially, to consider it in the nook of a nation*."

The principal *façade*, to the east, is as magnificent as any in Britain, and the whole edifice is built of the most durable and beautiful stones I ever saw.

The inside is not yet quite finished, but a great number of workmen are employed, not only within the house, but in cultivating the lawn and grounds around it; and, when the whole of the extensive improvements are completed, it will be a most princely residence.

The walk, called the *Bank*, is a very fine sloping, or hanging ground,

* Northern Memoirs, &c. by Richard Franks, *Philanthropus*, London, 1694, 12mo. This gentleman made his journey in 1658, and went through Scotland as far as the water of Brora, in Sutherland, to enjoy, as he travelled, the amusement of angling.

through which meanders a small rivulet, whose borders are happily variegated with different aromatic and other shrubs, and the upper parts are ornamented with divers forest trees, amongst which are some of the largest hollies I ever remember to have met with. Examining one, in particular, under which there appeared to be some fox-carths, we heard a grumbling noise, and, to our astonishment, were saluted by a litter of young terriers, whose existence was quite unknown to the huntsman: from their early education they will, no doubt, be excellent.

The principal pictures in Castle Gordon are, the first Marquis of Huntly, who, on his first arrival at court, forgetting the usual obeisance, was asked why he did not bow; he begged his Majesty's pardon, and excused his want of respect by saying, he was just come from a place where every body bowed to him. Second Marquis of Huntly, beheaded by the Covenanters. His son, the gallant Lord Gordon, Montrose's friend, killed at the battle of Auldford. Lord Lewis Gordon, a less generous warrior, the plague* of the people of Murray, (then the seat of the Covenanters) whose character, with that of the brave Montrose's, is well contrasted in these old lines:

If ye with Montrose gae, ye'l get sic and wae enough;
If ye with Lord Lewis gae, ye'l get rob and rave enough.

The head of the second Countess of Huntly, daughter of James I. Sir Peter Fraser, a full length in armour. A fine small portrait of the Abbé de Aubigné, sitting in his study. A very fine head of St. John receiving the Revelation, a beautiful expression of attention and devotion.

The duke was at his sporting-seat at Glen Fitty; but I found a very large party in the drawing-room. After tea we were entertained with music, and some pretty Erse songs, being the first time I ever heard them

* Whence this proverb:

"The guil, the Gordon, and the hooded crow,
Were the three worst things Murray ever saw."

Guil is a weed that infests corn. It was from the castle of Rothes on the Spey, that Lord Lewis made his plundering excursions into Murray.

accompanied by instruments. We then adjourned to the ball-room, and, after dancing many good reels, strathspeys, and some country-dances, retired to supper.

Nothing surely can be more delightful than this mode of living: it seemed to me a perfect paradise.

The morning being fine, with a pleasant breeze, I amused myself with admiring the different points of view from which the castle is seen to the most advantage. Was also much pleased to notice a taste for introducing a superior breed of horned cattle, as well as horses; in short, no pains are spared in the various improvements around the estate, to blend the useful with the beautiful. The gardens are not begun, but the kitchen garden is perhaps unparalleled in this country, affording, in the true, old style, plenty of every thing.

The company dividing, some gentlemen formed a party to shoot on the moors, of which I was one; others fished, &c. These moors are about a mile and a half beyond the castle, but so hid by immense plantations, that they are not seen. Here we found plenty of game, my dogs were hunted, and gave satisfaction; we had very good sport, killing eight brace and a half before twelve o'clock, with which, being contented, we returned, to be ready for dinner.

The Duke of Gordon still keeps up the diversion of falconry, and has several fine hawks of the peregrine and gentle falcon species, which breed in the rocks of Glenmore. I saw, also, here a true Highland greyhound, which is now become very scarce. It was of a large size, strong, deep-chested, and covered with very long and rough hair. This kind was in great vogue in former days, and used in vast numbers at the magnificent stag-chases, by the powerful chieftains.

Mr. Pennant mentions in his tour a dog which he saw, the offspring of a wolf and Pomeranian bitch. It had much the appearance of the first, and was very good natured and sportive; but, being slipped at a weak deer, it instantly brought the animal down, and tore out its throat. This dog was bred by Mr. Brook, animal merchant in London, who told him that the con-

gress between the wolf and the bitch was immediate, and the produce at the litter was ten.

I shot very indifferently, nor do I in general shoot well in company.

Day very warm, and in the morning showery.

Intending from the first to return soon to Raits, I was preparing to set off, when the Duchess, with that true politeness and affability for which she is peculiarly distinguished, desired me to stay a few days longer, at any rate one, not only on account of the weather, but in order to introduce me to the duke, who was expected home.

It does not require much solicitation to induce a man to follow his inclinations, and, had I not been really pressed so much for time to execute all the plans and engagements I had formed, I should have thought myself in Gordon Castle at the *ne plus ultra* of my wishes.

The carriages were now drawn up, and we went to church, the building, like most other country kirks, is very plain, but prettily situated at the end of the park: it was exceedingly crowded, the psalms were sung much better than I had ever heard them before north of the Tweed, and an excellent sermon was very well delivered by Mr. G.

After the service was over, I had an opportunity of observing the external characters of the congregation; the men were in general healthy, robust, and well-made, and dressed so exactly in the English style, that there was not the least vestige of the Scottish or Highland dress, except a few bonnets. It was still more conspicuous among the women, who had universally adopted the tartan shawl, which the duchess had brought into fashion last year.

It is astonishing how plain the country women are here: I did not discover one that was tolerable, except a very pretty girl we met on our return from the moors the day before; and, as many of them were the daughters of farmers and mechanics who live decently, I was much at a loss to account for this scanty distribution of beauty.

The duke returned from his sporting seat before dinner, and in him I found a finished gentleman and very excellent sportsman.

During my visit at Gordon Castle, I had the satisfaction of associating with several genteel parties of both sexes, and was particularly happy in meeting with Lord Monboddo, a gentleman of very excellent and uncommon abilities. No man surely was ever so enthusiastic an admirer of the ancients, whose manners he adopts in many pointed particulars. Whether it arises from this circumstance, or from a good natural stamina, I know not, but I scarcely ever saw a man of his lordship's age, upwards of eighty, able to undergo the fatigue he sustained here several days together.

September 29. — Morning heavy and lowering; as I could not possibly retard my journey, I would readily have compounded for one good soaking, to have set off very early.

But though there is more regularity at Castle Gordon than in any house of the kind I was ever in, the company always breakfasting at nine, when different parties are formed, and the day is thus completely enjoyed, not loitered away in total *ennuie*; all of which I conceive to be the good effects of the duke's being a keen sportsman; yet, this morning, they were later than usual; I therefore found out Mr. Hay, and from him obtained the completion of my wishes, to examine the castle more accurately and minutely.

We ascended the grand tower, and from it commanded a most extensive view of almost the whole of the surrounding country, as far, I think, as Fort George, and the vicinity of Inverness.

Breakfast being nearly ready, we descended, and I again took a survey of the outside of this splendid residence.

The centre of the house is old. The north-east front regular. The south-west front has a square tower in the middle, which is considerably higher than the house. The wings, which are new, are very elegant. The whole front is an extent of more than five hundred and fifty feet, and has upwards of one hundred and twenty windows. The higher parts of the building, towering amidst the fine old trees in the park, which have been planted in the Dutch taste, present to all the country around an image of magnificence. The park, which is very extensive, is stocked with several hundred of fallow

deer. The walks and pleasure ground, which have been but lately made out, are of great extent as well as variety. Those on the Holly Bank are exceedingly striking; commanding fine views of the castle and river Spey; and, at every turn, presenting you, among other objects, with beautiful groups of holly trees, which, on the whole, are esteemed the finest of the kind any where to be met with. The hills above the house are all planted with fir.

It was near eleven before I left Castle Gordon, and the day having changed its appearance, I promised myself a pleasant journey, understanding that it was only twenty miles to Grantown, though I think the Book of Roads makes it thirty-five English. It turned very sultry, and, the first six miles being up hill, made it a severe pull; but my carriage horses were very fresh and pretty well in meat.

As there were many cross roads, I enquired my way as often as an opportunity offered; and, having literally gone what I conceived to be eight miles, I was positively assured that it was not four from Gordon Castle. I therefore began to be apprehensive, that, if the future sixteen miles were nearly in the same proportion, I could not possibly reach Grantown that evening, or at least not till very late; and I confess I have no particular *gusto* for travelling unknown, on Highland roads, in the dark. Thus circumstanced, I entertained some thoughts of fishing and amusing myself at the inn at Ballendalloch, and sleeping there; which, after five hours drive, I at length reached.

But for an inn, though I am not very easily distressed with bad accommodations, and as I have travelled where inns cannot be expected to be very capital, I never in my life saw such a one as this; it is really a perfect burlesque on the name:—a house with rooms, indeed, but no windows. I fancy the people, from their extreme poverty, had taken them out, as I observed many other more creditable persons had done, to save Mr. Pitt's additional duty: which proves the folly of a heavy tax; for, when severely felt, it will always defeat itself, and be evaded.

I did not expect a sumptuous bill of fare, from the *coup d'aile* of the place, but I hoped to find eggs: however, they had none. I was thirsty; I

asked for porter—they had none; for brandy—they had none; for rum—they had none. This, to many travellers, would have been very distressing; to me, it was of no consequence, accustomed, from my mode of life, to enjoy, or to live without the luxuries, and, sometimes, even the comforts of life: and I have often, in similar situations, reflected on the advantage I had over most of my companions, who cannot exist without their dainties and side dishes; and, even having those, without a good bottle of Pontac, they are still miserable.

However, I expected that my horses would fare pretty well, which was now my only concern; but hay—they had none: that, I thought, might be obviated, by a double portion of corn; but, alas! they had none. Thus I found myself in a charming situation, with the prospect of fifteen English miles to Grantown.

The landlord, indeed, lamented his inability to serve me in terms that softened me much; and, feeling for his unfortunate situation, I soon forgot my own. There was now no other resource but to proceed on my journey; I therefore ordered the carriage to be got ready, and to follow me, while I walked on.

Not far from the inn is a seat of General Grant. The reader may judge that I had no inclination to stop in so inhospitable a country. It appeared to me to be in a pleasant situation. The day was now far advanced—past five o'clock. Following the Spey, I saw some well-cultivated valleys, and a farm in excellent order, under the management, as I found, of Mr. McGregor, who rents it of Sir James Grant. The state of cultivation every part of this farm appeared to be in, does him great credit. The Spey, I fancy, had received a small flush from the mountains, for I saw a young girl attempting to ford it from the opposite shore, under the directions of another on this side the river. Not seeing me, she made no ceremony, but came forward, till at last it proved so deep, that, had she got a glimpse of my carriage, which I had stopped (only to give my horses their wind) after a severe pull, I am apt to think she would have blushed for her situation. As I had not met above one or two persons for miles, the animation these

females had given to the scenery, I felt with uncommon emotion. Farther on, perceiving two turns in the road, I asked a man, who seemed to be an intelligent person, which was the way to Grantown? He told me that one road led to the bridge over the Spey, and the other to the boat, at which place there was a ford, which he was certain was not deep. This road, which had been represented to me as impassable in a carriage, he likewise assured me, had been mended the week before, and made, in every respect, equal to the other. As I understood it was a mile and a half shorter, I took his advice, but crossed the river at random, for I saw neither boat nor boatmen, nor could any intelligence be had of them. We got across very well, but it was deep enough in all conscience, and followed our directions, but soon found we had been most grossly deceived by our guide, though not intentionally, for the road had the appearance of being newly mended, which exactly corresponded with his account, but though finished in part, the repair stopped short at a descent, and left a very steep fall of at least four feet, extremely dangerous to pass, overhanging a mill-rise on one side, and having, on the other, a bushy, steep bank: but there was no remedy, for it was scarcely possible to turn, otherwise I should certainly have attempted it, and recrossed the Spey, though so far about, to have gained the road by the bridge. Thus circumstanced, I found it necessary to exert my ingenuity, to overcome the difficulty we had got into, which I effected in the following manner:—

I saw a broad plank laid over the mill-rise, which we took up, and placed it in such a manner that one of the wheels should run down it; and the bank, being soft and sandy, we broke down; so that taking one of the horses out, by the servant's leading, and myself retarding the fall, we passed very safely.

We then quickened our pace as much as possible, fearing we should be benighted, and seeing two turnings, we took that we thought the most likely to lead to Grantown; but, after travelling about a mile, we were again at a stand, for the road diminished to a horse-track, which obliged me to get on horseback, having been nearly overturned more than once. Riding on to

explore the way, I was soon forced to return, and stop the farther progress of the servants, as it was totally impassable for a carriage, being only a sharp path on the side of a steep hill. We then attempted another road, and I flattered myself we should do very well; but our career was again checked, for it led only to a peat-moss.

It was now quite dark, and near eight o'clock: to leave the carriage, seemed, at first, the only plan, and to send people to watch it during the night; but as this would take up some time, I ordered the servants to return, and, if possible, to recross the Spey, at least to attempt it.

In the mean time I pursued my journey on the sharp path, and soon came into a very good road, when seeing a light, I rode up to it. I hallooed, but could obtain no answer, though I heard several people talking. It appeared to me to be a lime-kiln; but I was mistaken; in short I could not conceive what the fire could be made for.

Having asked for the right road, a boy was at last sent to direct me, for I had got quite out of it; and, looking back, I saw the fire moving, which made me enquire into the nature of this strange nocturnal party, and I found that they were poaching for salmon, by *blazing*. This they effect here in the following manner:—They run a net across the stream, and then going up it in a boat, they drive the salmon, which avoid the light, down into the net, having also a spear with which they occasionally strike the fish. By this mode many fish are killed at this time of the year, when they are black, out of season, and spawning; and the fisheries are thereby greatly injured. It would answer their purpose very well, if those who rent these fisheries would employ proper persons to detect and punish the offenders.

Getting now into the main road, I soon reached Grantown, where I had every thing very comfortably prepared for me, and servants sent off to assist mine, if necessary, in bringing on the carriage, which, however, arrived safe, without any further trouble.

It was my intention to have breakfasted the next morning with Mr. M'Gregor, who had received orders from Sir James Grant to show me every civility and attention in my attempts to kill a roebuck; but finding he

was from home, and that Captain Grant, of Abernethy, would have the foresters ready to attend me, I sent to inform that gentleman, that I would be at his house early the next morning, and desired every thing to be prepared accordingly.

September 30.—Day serene and charming for any purpose but deer-shooting.

For the roebuck owes his preservation as much to his ears as his eyes; his organs of hearing are wonderfully acute, so that in a calm day, from the quantity of fallen dead wood, being covered with deep ling, to be totally avoided, they are roused long before the shooter can get near them.

But I was determined to try; and having breakfasted with Mrs. Grant, from whom I received every possible civility, I proceeded to the forest of Abernethy, having first sent on my horses to Avemore, and ordered my boat and fishing tackle to be ready at Lake Petulichge, proposing to take a final leave of that lake, which had afforded me and Captain Waller so much excellent diversion. In my way to the forest, I took a cursory view of Mr. Grant's farm; saw some large fields, of forty or fifty acres, of good English oats, which seemed to be very fine crops.

Mr. Grant not being a sportsman,, and consequently his company unnecessary in deer-shooting, though otherwise very agreeable, after thanking him for his civilities, and expressing a wish to return them at Raits, we parted.

One of the foresters soon saw a roebuck, but I confess I did not believe him: however, I soon discovered one myself, but unfortunately at too great a distance, not less than two hundred yards; but he crossed quite exposed, and had I shot, it is probable I might have killed him; but I forbore, expecting, by recrossing some deep, lingy, and woody ground, to get a better shot. I took much pains, and had a very laborious, unpleasant search in vain, for I saw no more of him; and, being every instant in danger of breaking my limbs, amongst ling so deep as came up above my middle, under which, in different directions, lay, totally unseen, large trees, and branches of fir, many of which I stumbled over*, was obliged to give it up.

* I really think it a very dangerous pursuit, by no means worth following in this forest.

After taking some refreshment, proceeded to Lake Petulichge, and, on my way, found only a single brood of moor-game, of which I killed two.

I got into my boat; and all my apparatus being ready, began to troll, having some charming baits, and the evening the most favourable in every respect; yet, though I trolled over the whole lake, I could not get a rise, and was preparing to pack up my tackle, when I felt a fish strike boldly, and after very good sport I landed him; his weight was about fourteen pounds. Confident that I had not left many pike there, I now quitted this lake with less regret; but, first invited Mr. Stewart, whose farm almost surrounds it, to dine with me at Avemore, and, at parting, drank a bumper with him to his landlord's health.

Returns; four moor-game, one pike.

October 1.—Day windy, and very favourable for roebuck shooting; but was prevented engaging in it, by two gentlemen who met me by appointment, and kept me at home till it was too late. Went to Rothemurcos, where I found the family of Mr. G. of Glenmorison.

Came afterwards to Raits, and found the gentlemen were divided; Mr. Parkhurst had been for a day or two with an English party at Pitmain, to whom I immediately sent an invitation to pass the day with me. Not being certain, however, of their company, and wishing to have one day with Dargo before I sent him to Castle Gordon, I went out with him, and no dog ever behaved better; Pluto was still more fortunate, making five points in fifty-one more than he; though, considering Dargo as an excellent dog, and Pluto to be merely a whelp, I had the greater hopes of the former. The birds were uncommonly wild, and, except in deep ling, would not lie: I shot at great distances.

Came home earlier than I wished, in order to receive some strangers, who, I understood meant to dine at Raits; they had taken dinner however, not being able to stay till five o'clock, my usual hour.

Returns; shot twenty-nine moor-game; three snipes.

October 2.—Day tolerable, but cold, and on the moors very windy.

On this day, I took my farewell of moor-game, I found them very wild,

and my fire being constantly blown from the powder, made it the most unpleasant day I ever had.

After much walking, I determined to contend no longer against the weather, and returned homewards. At eight good shots my gun mist fire, though I put in five different flints: at as many bad ones it went off; and at some of them I killed. Towards the afternoon it was more favourable; and, my last shot, on taking leave of the moors, I am convinced was at the distance of a hundred and ten yards, on horseback, and at a trot. I hit my bird, and thinking, as it was so far off, it was only slightly wounded, ordered the Devil to be flown; but, on coming up, found that the bird, though an old one, had her wing broke, and was otherwise so much cut, that she could not fly.

I determined now to take my final adieu, being near Raits, with this *coup d'eclat*.

Moor-game come still lower down, when the dreadful storms, felt among these mountains, begin; and in very severe weather, particularly in the winter of 1782 and 1783, a very creditable farmer assured me, that he had seen them feeding among his cattle and fowls. They form flocks, as I am informed, of three and four thousand; but, as I never was, nor do I wish ever to be here in winter, I cannot pledge myself for the truth of this, any more than for many other Highland stories; but I believe it very possible.

This day the *Ville de Paris* was, with some difficulty, put on Lake Superior, where no boat was ever known to float before: by wading I got into her, certain of sport, but had not one rise in fishing for pike. Saw some trout leap, and caught a few; but, having business on my hands, and company to dine with me, hurried home.

Dr. Farquarson and some other gentlemen passed the day with me, and the doctor informing me that my boat, called the *Gibraltar*, which I had sent forward to Glen Ennoch, had the day before been carried, with infinite difficulty, within half a mile of the loch, by the help of horses, and the exertions of twenty men; and, that by the same means, she would most cer-

tainly be afloat by eight the next morning; all hands were ordered to be employed in packing up and preparing the nets, provisions, &c. proper for our plan of char-fishing in the lake, and Mr. Gerrard's intention to complete his views, both of which were to be attempted the next day; the doctor went home to forward our measures, we promising to call on him early in the morning, if the weather was favourable. He was as anxious that the boat should be got on the lake, as I had been to have his exertions; but I laid two guineas that it could not be done.

At five, we were awakened, but told that the day seemed to forbode continual showers, and at that time it rained most violently. Our expedition, therefore, as had been agreed upon, was postponed to the next day. At eight, however, it cleared up and continued fine; and, as the day was not too far advanced, to think of putting our scheme into execution; I speedily settled my account, preparatory to my final departure on the morrow; and having soon finished a hearty but quick breakfast, we sallied forth.

As I did not wish to let my horses, now prepared for a long journey, run the risk of being lamed on such an expedition, I rode the moor poney, and Messrs. Parkhurst and Gerrard were mounted on such Rosinantes as the country would afford.

Our party made a very goodly show, for their horses never, I believe, had more than branks on, and as to spurs, they soon showed symptoms of their total ignorance of the use of them, for being instigated, they kicked and plunged, not in the usual, but in the true Highland style. I had my fears for Mr. Gerrard, but he was now become so good a horseman that he felt himself equal to these repeated shocks. Notwithstanding the frequent application of spurs and whips, I found my friends could not get forward; they were continually hanging behind, and complained that they could not make their horses mend their pace, which was but too evident.

At length we arrived at Mr. Cameron's, and found from the proprietor, who was so kind as to attend us to the ford, that it had been rendered, at least, very doubtful by the late rains. And the information I had taken

pains to receive accurately; that the boat was a horse boat, proved false. This delayed us a little, but I desired that we might determine quickly, as we were every moment wasting that time which our expedition required.

We knew that Crosly, who had been sent on with the hawks, must have crossed it, but his horse was much higher than any of ours, and the river was rising. I took off my ammunition saddle, therefore, lest my powder and apparatus should get wet in fording; the two gentlemen followed my example, and a Highlander, who knew the ford, undertook to pass it, and though very deep, got over safe with our horses.

We went to the ferry, which, with great difficulty, we got to cross for us, owing to the ferryman being gone with my boat to Glen Ennoch; indeed, all the hands in the neighbourhood were employed in the same business. At length his wife, with a child in her arms, came down to the boat, trusted herself to the current, and brought her over to us; we all got on board, but the stream, which favoured the woman, was so rapid against us, that Mr. Gerrard and myself were obliged to navigate the boat, which we got across with some difficulty.

We had now a severe walk of a mile and a half up a very steep hill to the doctor's house, and each having his apparatus to carry, we were again delayed a considerable time; but I kept urging the gentlemen on, and at last we arrived there, and saw a most plentiful breakfast indeed, ready for us, which we did not expect; however, from politeness, we sat down, and, really, to have seen us eat, no mortal would have imagined we had tasted any thing for some days.

Dr. Farquarson's house has some neat, good rooms in it, is better than most houses in these parts, and far superior to any in the very beautiful views to be seen from the windows: the dining-room is one of the most cheerful apartments I was ever in.

The proprietors of houses, in general, in this country, seem determined to turn their backs on the most inviting scenes, which it is almost impossible for strangers sufficiently to admire: in short, this is a most delightful spot.

We now resolved to walk to the lake, as the doctor assured us we should save two miles, and that the whole was but five. As we passed through the forest of Rothemurcos, we got a fine and different view of Loch Ennoch, from any point we had so much admired it at, and, adjoining to it, we discovered *Loch Down*, a lake we had never yet seen: we also beheld some heavenly scenes up and down the Spey.

Proceeded, and, after a sharp, or rather severe ascent, of six miles, we came to the edge of a forest of straggling pines, whose vigour diminished as we ascended the foot of the mountain.

I ordered my dogs to be uncoupled, and they soon found game; but the three first broods were so wild, I could not get a shot: but as the sun began to make his appearance, they lay better, and moor-game innumerable we found in one hollow. I killed fifteen, and wounded an old cock mortally: followed, and found him; he rose at some distance, but I could not get a shot at him; found him again, after much trouble: my gun missed fire, and had not Lawson apprised me, more than once, that we were losing time dedicated to ptarmigants, I should have followed him all day, so desirous was I of killing him; but, to my great mortification, I was obliged to leave him.

Our road was very steep, through rough and rocky ground, and, in some parts, where the trees were blown down, was almost impassable, even to me, who am well accustomed to this kind of walking. In scrambling up one part, the doctor, who was before me, flushed a woodcock. Had I fortunately been foremost, I could easily have killed him; but, situated as I was, I could not attempt it, without running the risk of destroying the son of Esculapius. I cheered the dogs thinking they might find him, but without success, and our time was too precious to admit of delay, though, upon any other occasion, I would have given up a day in search of him.

As the walk became more severe, I felt it most sincerely for my friend Mr. Parkhurst, who could by no means keep pace with me; leaving him, therefore, under the care of the doctor, to proceed more leisurely, I made

the best of my way for the lake with Mr. Gerrard, who was as anxious to draw as I was to get a few char. However, we afterwards separated, he taking the lower part of the mountain, while I kept the upper; and, though I had never been to Glen Ennoch by this entrance, from its strongly-marked appearance, I found a shorter way to it than even our guide, the doctor, knew; who was astonished to see me so far before him.

After hurting my ankle very much by one fall, and narrowly escaping half a dozen more, that might have been attended with worse consequences, I got to the lake between one and two o'clock, where I found Mr. Gerrard and the servants just arrived. We looked round us for the doctor and Mr. Parkhurst, whom we could just discern descending the mountain, greatly fatigued. We now examined how far the doctor's account tallied with ours. This walk must certainly have been equal to any seventeen miles; for, though he calculated it at only five, it took us five hours and a half, walking as fast as the ground we had to go over would admit; so much do the inhabitants of this country deceive themselves in respect to the distance of places. It blew so dreadfully on the lake, that it was impossible to attempt to fish it; we, therefore, only tried to draw the bays, the first of which was both small and shallow.

We caught some very fine trout, not large indeed, but beautiful and delicately coloured; but no char, the fish we wanted.

While the boat was carrying round, we examined the scenery about us. The tops of the mountains, and the sides of the black, huge masses of broken rocks appeared to be powdered with the snow that had fallen in the night.

Mr. Gerrard corrected his view; but it soon became showery. We then sat down to dinner, and distributed a handsome proportion amongst our attendants, who formed a circle, consisting of twenty-one persons; and, after drinking some punch, took another haul; but, the net being blown on shore, we caught nothing.

Mr. Parkhurst and the doctor now joined us, and the former was not so much distressed as I had apprehended. Having dined, he felt himself, or

made us believe he was, perfectly well, which alleviated my fears; for, as the horses had been brought up, where no horses had ever been before, and were near the lake, I knew he could ride home.

From this station we saw plenty of ptarmigants around us, so much had they shifted lower down, from the change of weather.

These birds we found very different from what they were when I was last here: the cold had made them exceedingly wild, and, when disturbed, they flew and sat like hawks on the cliffs, and the immense precipices around Glen Ennoch, where it was impossible to get at them. I really think the snow, on these stupendous mountains, at least twelve feet deep: it never dissolves.

The view all around, from this eminence, might be called dreadful: snow, ragged precipices, large mountains of loose stones, and rocks for twenty miles, or probably thirty.

Wide to the north, beneath the pole, she spreads
Her piles of mountains; o'er their rugged heads,
Here winds on winds in endless tempests roll,
The valleys sigh, the length'ning echoes howl.
On the rude cliffs, with frosty spangles grey,
Weak as the twilight glooms the solar ray;
Each mountain's breast with snows eternal shines,
The streams, the seas, eternal frost confines.

It is astonishing how these ptarmigants exist: we opened their crops, and found only a kind of moss, and green leaves of stunted bley berries.

The lakes here, of which there are several, large and small, are so clear, that nothing can be like them, and are all full of char.

We took a third haul, determined afterwards to proceed home. The boat leaked so much that we were afraid for the servants' safety: found the cause, and, enlarging the hole, drove in a cork so fast, that we trusted there was nothing to be apprehended; and, as the wind blew in shore, and not always fast, to boatmen there seemed no danger; in any other situation I should

not have allowed persons to trust themselves in her; not only on account of the distance, but being compelled to it by sleet, followed by the rain, which now began to pour. At this haul we took four fine char, and several trout, my net exactly suiting the bay, and must have had very good sport, if the coldness of the day had not forced the fish into the deeps.

Having thus attempted, and done what was thought extremely difficult, the bringing the Gibraltar over mountains hitherto impassable, we took a bumper, and, passing it round, with three cheers, drank long life to the Rothemurcos, and then set off on our return home.

Mr. Parkhurst and Mr. Gerrard rode, and I proceeded on foot, being wet and rather cold: the doctor and two Highlanders attended me; but, had I known my way, I should certainly have been at the Spey an hour sooner; for the doctor, though a very good man, is by no means a good walker. Finding ourselves very thirsty, and most completely wet, for it rained incessantly from the time we left Glen Ennoch, we stopped at a decent-looking farm-house, got a plentiful draught of milk, and dispatched a messenger to ask for the key of my friend's boat.

The night, as it grew later, became still worse, and, on our entering the lower part of the forest of Rothemurcos, it was seven o'clock and very dark, the gloominess of the thick firs making it still more so. There were roads continually running at cross angles, for the purpose of conveying the trees, when cut, down to the river, and, as I found myself as good a guide as the doctor, I pursued these, and, at length, we got to Rothemurcos House, and went down to the place where the boat was chained, and where we expected to find our messenger with the key.

The flood roared down most dreadfully, and the whole seemed to us a sea. We searched the shore, but in vain; no boat could be found; we called as loud as we could, but obtained no answer. The doctor now took my advice, and tried lower down, where I thought I had seen the boat some time before, and, following the banks of the river, we found ourselves in an island, the water having come suddenly down and surrounded us. There appeared to be a rivulet, but whether deep or shallow we knew not; in we

went, at all hazards, and found it about three feet deep, and boggy. I got over very well; but the doctor, being heavier, stuck in the mud, and could not extricate himself without my assistance. As we proceeded, considering whether we should return and sleep at Rothemurcos, or how we should act, I discovered the boat, by the faint light we had of a partial moon, and, coming up to her, found she was padlocked, and almost full of water. With my picker I soon unlocked her, and we ventured in, trusting to the doctor's steerage, who said he knew the opposite shore; but I found he was mistaken: for so great was the difference which the flood and night made in the appearance, that he was as much at a loss as myself.

The current soon drove us on shore, but there being two other cuts made for floating the timber, we were obliged to put off twice; and, in one of the attempts, the doctor only being on board, while I was exploring the land, he was driven into an eddy, and was in imminent danger. In another, we ran on a sand-bank, from which we got off with some difficulty, and, at length, got on shore at a tolerable landing-place; but I could by no means induce one of the dogs, being so alarmed with the current, to trust himself with us; he was therefore left to swim and shift for himself.

Got to Avemore about eleven o'clock, though we thought it nearer twelve; so much longer did we imagine we had been in the boat, than we really were.

I expected to find dry clothes, and every thing comfortable, having ordered my carriage to be at Avemore by seven; and we were very much disappointed when we found that it was not come: I apprehended some accident had happened. However, we soon got dry things.

At this house we were introduced to a very handsome English lady, there on a visit. So beautiful a complexion I never saw; and to me, who had not observed many delicate and feminine charms of late, only having seen the *simplex munditiis*, it was no very unpleasant sensation to be by a comfortable fire-side, after such a walk, in such company.

The contrast between this lady and a very healthy Highland lassie, not

wanting in those beauties her country gives, viz. health and strength, made each appear more desirable.

A good supper was prepared, and, having drank some mulled port, and a bottle each of excellent claret, we found ourselves quite refreshed. A messenger now came in, and acquainted us that the carriage had been detained by the traces breaking, but would soon arrive.

As for Mr. Parkhurst and Mr. Gerrard, with their party, we knew nothing about them; but trusted that they had had the prudence, the night being so dreadful, to go Dr. Ferguson's.

October 4.—Morning most heavenly, and the country perfectly dry. Just as we were sitting down to breakfast, Mr. Parkhurst and Mr. Gerrard arrived, and gave us an account of their evening. They had got to the ferry by eight o'clock, thoroughly wet; but, the oars being broken, they could not cross; and, fearful of being lost in their return through the forest, they determined to sleep in the boatman's bothée; for, bad as it was, it appeared to them very inviting. The boatman, with difficulty, was prevailed upon to admit them, not from want of hospitality, but from the fear of not being able to accommodate them. Fortunately for Mr. Parkhurst, as an invalid, they had Mr. Gerrard's portmanteau, with dry clothes. With some whiskey and milk they made tolerable punch, and, with a log or two of fir, such a rousing fire as endangered the bothée, and then slept very comfortably in the true Indian style. Thus ended our expedition to Glen Ennoch, and such a one it was as I fancy will leave a strong impression on the minds of the party.

The carriage being obliged to wait for some iron work mending, could not leave Avemore till past three o'clock; in the mean time Mr. Mitchell, a very reputable gentleman farmer, calling on me, made me an offer of his house on the side of Loch Laggan, and gave me much reason to hope for excellent sport, both in fishing and shooting. I therefore determined, for a few hours, to proceed thither, keeping our dogs back till we had got on two miles, and were in view of the lake.

The dogs stood, and we got off. I killed some moor-game at one point: on my side one got up; I likewise shot him, and, while I was loading, a

brace of old black-cocks rose. Mr. M. who had long wished to kill one, had now a fine opportunity, but did not succeed, though an excellent shot: we found one of them twice afterwards; but, in this, as in other things, an opportunity once neglected is never after regained.

We then separated, Lawson going with me, and Mr. M. being joined by a gentleman, who had done me the honour to come and meet me.

Soon found some black-game. Lawson killed a brace, and myself one; but do what we could, though we saw numbers, could not get near any more.

The views on the sides of this enchanting lake, Loch Laggan, are far, very far, superior to those of any lake I have seen; and, in fact, are beyond all that imagination can paint.

Around her northern and her western shores,
Throng'd with the finny race, Loch Laggan roars:
The midland sea, where tide ne'er swell'd the waves,
In richest lawns the southern border laves.

The quantity of hanging woods, some of a mile long, only divided by pendant rocks, or pleasant verdure, and many of them rising in the form of a sugar-loaf, whose tops seem supporting pillars to the clouds, which roll down the summit of these craggy mountains, gave the place a most heavenly appearance.

This lake is about nine miles long and one broad; alive with trout.

The trout here are four kinds, three of which I caught, differing both in colour and taste. The fourth kind, called the *duermain**, I did not catch. They are said to be very large, exceeding twenty pounds. I have heard, above double that weight; but Mr. M. assured me, that he has taken them of sixteen pounds.

They are never caught with a fly, though I understand that once or twice my friend has had a gentle rise from them; but, by spinning, amazing

* The description I had of a *duermain*, is that of a trout, whose head in size bears no proportion to his body, being infinitely larger, of a blackish colour, and a monstrous size; and which I conceive to be the bull-trout. *Vide British Zoology.*



LOCH LAGGAN.

J. Thomson del.

sport may be expected. Indeed, all the trout I took were very large, and two kinds were excellent eating, the third happened not to be dressed to-day; those I ate were either yellow or blood-red, and as firm as any salmon.

We returned, after I had taken a short view of this enchanting lake, to an early dinner, and I found that I had reason to regret my not having been acquainted with Mr. M. before.

Having arranged every thing with Mr. P. who could not be prevailed on to follow the track that I had planned with Mr. Gerrard, of returning by the western coast, &c. he, being keener for fox-hunting, determined to return to Thornville, taking his servant and the falconer with him.

The others, perfectly satisfied with their naval excursion last spring, I ordered to make the best of their way to Edinburgh, and from thence there was a ready conveyance, by flies, &c. to Boroughbridge, seven miles from Thornville.

We bid adieu to each other, and Mr. Gerrard and I proceeded in the gig.

The road from hence to Moy, where we were engaged to dine, is tolerable. Pass through the forest of Dulnon, and by a neat spot, near the new bridge, (the former having been swept away, and the arch being stopt by a float of firs, improperly made; soon blew up the whole,) which bid adieu to its charms, with that gratitude, which our having so innocently enjoyed ourselves in it, demanded.

Here dismal Dulnon spreads a dreary wild,
Here Fothe's wastes where harvest never smil'd;
Whose groves of fir in gloomy horror frown,
Nod o'er the rocks, and to the tempest groan.

As our horses were fresh, and we intended resting them a day or two at Moy, we went at a pretty good rate. Passed by a house, seemingly well situated for a sportsman. I think I was informed it was Inverlaidmen, a Mr. Grant's, of course, as one in a country, where all, or most persons take the name of their chief.

Ascending a height, and seeing some curious pyebald poneys, I walked towards them, and finding the owner, I soon asked him the value of one of

them. I offered him four guineas for it: he told me, if I would give him one shilling more I should have it. The difference was of so little consequence, that I could not help joking him. I agreed for his horse, and directed him to deliver it to my falconer at Avemore, or at Raits, who would have orders from me to pay for it.

I got into the carriage, and had not gone far before I entered *Sloug Muick**, equally wild as Glen Ammon; and being pretty near the entrance of the Highlands, on the Inverness side, as Glen Ammon is on the Crief side; they alike convey an idea of the romantic scenery to be expected by the traveller. Indeed, they might serve as barriers to them, being the only dreary, wild parts on the road; for the country between is, throughout, infinitely less wild than these two places.

Glen Muick is remarkable for a fine cataract formed by the river Muick, which, after running a considerable way along a level moor, at once falls down a perpendicular rock, of a semicircular form, called the Lin of Muick, into a hole of great depth, so worn by the weight of water, as to be supposed, by the vulgar, bottomless.

About two miles on this side Dalmagary you cross over the beautiful, and now rapid, river *Findhorn*; and here we obtained a very fine view of Loch Moy: at the end of it is situated the fair mansion of the chief of the M'Intoshes, at which, as it grew late, we wished to arrive.

The road favoured our desires, for so fine a one I think I scarcely ever saw. About half a mile from Moy, the spring of the carriage, not being sufficiently mended, gave way, and we got out, and walked along the loch, ordering our horses on. It is small, but has soft features on its banks, amidst rude environs.

Coming into some boggy ground, and seeing a woman before us, we ran gently forward, wishing to know from her the best road. What she took us for I know not, probably she thought us spirits, for she ran away as fast as

* *Sloug Muick*, in the Erse language, signifies the *Den of Bours*, which, formerly, according to the tradition of the country, were as numerous as robbers have been since; and to whom it has equally afforded an asylum.

she could, screaming all the way most violently. However, we soon came up to a man, nearly as surprised as the female, who gave us proper directions; but, advancing, we found the house surrounded with water; after much trouble, we at length hailed a boat, it came over to us, and we were informed that the flood, being out, had overflowed the head.

The boatmen took us on board; and, as they passed on, they threw in their nets, and got some good draughts of trout, and some of fine char, with which it seems this lake abounds. Had we known it sooner, we should not have undertaken our expedition to Glen Ennoch, which was done with the view of getting a char for Mr. G.

Got to Moy about eight o'clock, and found the laird politely ready to receive us.

MOY.

The mansion of Moy is really a very comfortable habitation. The dining-room and drawing-room each command views of the lake, whose borders abound with numberless fine breaks, covered with natural and artificial wood. In the centre of it is a very pretty island, also finely wooded; and you have an indistinct sight of a castle, in which is a fine hernery, a rare thing in these deserts.

At the foot of the lake is likewise a smaller island, which is now flooded. This island is artificial, and was formerly used as a prison: if any prisoners were there now, they could not require a much greater punishment.

The day continued showery till eleven, when I sallied out, accompanied by the laird, who, though no sportsman, was polite enough to show me the likeliest ground for black game, by which act of civility he was more than once in danger of a fall; for, being mounted on an English gelding, not at all accustomed to wild, moory ground, he found it no easy matter to follow my horses, real Highlanders, perpetually trained to the business.

We found plenty of black game and some moor-game, both of which, owing to the rain, were exceedingly wild. The black game would not allow me to come near them, except in birch-cover, so thick that it was almost

impossible to get a shot. With great labour, however, I killed five, but lost one, which I saw fall near a stream, and suppose it must have floated down.

After taking a great deal of pains, to no purpose, I returned home, and found Mr. Q. M'Intosh, my oldest acquaintance in these parts, and another gentleman. Got quickly dressed, and sat down to an excellent dinner.

As Messrs. M'Intoshes were just returned from the assizes at Inverness, I made particular enquiries, in the course of conversation, concerning the issue of the trial of Kennedy, one of the most daring fellows ever known in this or any other country.

This man having separated from his party, and intelligence being given to M'Kie, a very enterprising constable, who knew, by report, that he was the chief of a gang of robbers; he took him up, I apprehend, on very slight evidence, and he was confined in Inverness gaol.

It seems, when he was brought up for trial, the witnesses were so brow-beaten and threatened by his party, that they durst not appear; by which means he got off, though there is not the least doubt of his guilt; and the whole neighbourhood of Glengary are in continual fear for their lives and property. To such a degree of impudence does the gang carry its villainy, that, by common consent, an action is likely to be brought against M'Kie for shooting at Kennedy, who was taken in the following manner:

They attempted to surround the house he was in, but, having got some intelligence of their design, he made his escape, and ran towards an adjoining wood; when M'Kie, not being able to overtake him, shot at him, wounded him, and thus secured him. The gang, however extraordinary it may appear, actually stole no less than between six and seven hundred sheep, in the year 1783, from Mr. Butler, steward on the forfeited estate of Lochell. Glengary also has suffered materially.

The gang consists of from twelve to fifteen persons, and they live in the wilds of Glengary.

Returns; black game five.

October 5.—Morning delightful.

The laird's family do not rise with the lark, but take a comfortable nap; I therefore amused myself, by ordering the nets to be cast into the lake, to try for some char, and we caught a few, very fine; from one of which Mr. Gerard made a beautiful drawing, which was intended to be engraved, but as the colouring is the chief beauty in a char, and as that, together with many other drawings, however desirable, would enhance the price of the work too much, the intention was dropt.

I now adjusted my bullet-gun, by which time the company came down stairs; and at twelve I went out, intending to try for a roebuck, which were said to be more plentiful and better preserved on this estate than in any part of Scotland.

I confess my patience had been so much tried before, that, though I proceeded, I thought my prospect of success very small; but I took all imaginable pains, and saw one, or a brace; yet they were so deep in cover, and sprang so quick, that my eye could scarcely follow them. Determined to go after black game, but, still desirous of succeeding, took one cast more, and got the glimpse of another, at which I shot, and seeing one bound from the place, feared he was only slightly wounded, for I was certain I had not missed him. Reloaded, intending to follow him; when coming up to the rocky, but bushy, ground he was on, found him dead, being shot through the heart, and ordered the Highlander, who was with me, to take him home, after I had thoroughly examined him.

The roebuck is the most timid and innocent of all animals, and about the size of a common two-years-old fallow deer. It differs from them a little in colour, and also in shape, but more particularly in the character and colour of the head and muzzle; the former is very small, and the latter is barred with white. They are always lean, and the only fat found upon them is a small piece on the end of the rump.

Proceeded after black game, but had no success; moved farther up the mountains, and saw some straggling birds, but the eminence I tried was too dry for them.

Returned to the mansion, where the laird added much to the satisfaction my success had given me, by the pleasure it seemed to afford him.

Returns of the day; shot, a roebuck and four moor-game: the falcon, a brace.

October 6.—Morning very rainy, which prevented my taking a ride I had promised myself, before I proceeded for Inverness.

At eleven it cleared up, and, apprehending great falls of rain, which are common at this season in these parts, I set out, accompanied by my old acquaintance, the Rev. Mr. Gordon, who, with great goodness of heart, came to meet me at Moy. This gentleman has a very mechanical turn, and has made himself a very good electrifying machine. He is a young man, remarkably modest in his deportment, and in every respect keeps up the character and decency consistent with his profession; but being fond of fishing, his parishioners find fault with him; however, he has the resolution and good sense not to give up so innocent an amusement on account of their bigotry and folly.

I much wished that he would dine with me at Inverness, where I had invited several of the citizens; but, being Saturday, could not prevail upon him.

If the road was excellent on approaching Moy, in return, it was as bad from thence to Inverness, the ride being over the most dreary, barren country ever beheld.

On approaching the metropolis of the Highlands, the fog dissipated, and I got a good view of the town, where I met with two fellow travellers, Mr. O. and Major M. with one of whom I had been acquainted some years.

They had just returned that morning from seal shooting, and were on their way to England. I detained them a few minutes to give them some directions that might be serviceable, and then, wishing them a good journey, proceeded to the inn.

INVERNESS.

Inverness is a town of considerable magnitude, said to contain about eleven thousand inhabitants. Some of the houses in it are tolerably built.

but the streets are narrow and dirty. It is situated on a plain, between the Murray Frith and the River Ness; the first, from the narrow Strait of Ardersier, instantly widens into a fine bay. Ships of four or five hundred tons can ride within a mile of the town, and, at high tide, vessels of two hundred tons can come up to the key, which, though small, is made safe and convenient; and this being the last town of any note in North Britain, is the winter residence of many of the neighbouring gentry, and the present *emporium*, as it was the ancient, of the north of Scotland. The imports are chiefly groceries, haberdasheries, hardware, and other necessaries from London, and of late from six to eight hundred hogsheads are annually brought in.

The principal business carried on by the town's people is the spinning of thread, making linen and woollen cloth for their own consumption, and cording and sacking for exportation. Several large buildings have been erected for those purposes, and much business is carried on in private houses. The rest of their exports are chiefly salmon (those of the Ness being esteemed of more exquisite flavour than any other) and herrings, of an inferior kind, taken in the Frith from August to March. The linen manufacture, however, is the most considerable, and saves the place above three thousand pounds a year, which used to go into Holland for that article. The commerce of this town was at its height a century or two ago, when it engrossed the exports of corn, salmon, and herrings; and had besides a great trade in cured cod-fish, now lost; and in those times very large fortunes were made here.

The people of Inverness speak both Erse and English; the latter with remarkable purity; partly, because they learn it, not from vulgar conversation, but from book, as we do Greek and Latin; and partly, it is said, because English garrisons, from the time of the civil wars, having, in a great measure, given the tone, in respect to diction and pronunciation, to the neighbourhood of this natural barrier between the northernmost and the middle division of Scotland.

The opulence of this town has often made it the object of plunder to the Lords of the Isles and their dependents. It suffered, we are informed, par-

ticularly in 1222, from one Gillispie: in 1429, from Alexander, Lord of the Isles, and even so late did the ancient manners prevail, that a head of a western clan, in the latter end of the last century, threatened the place with fire and sword, if they did not pay a large contribution, and present him with a scarlet suit, laced; all of which was complied with.

On the north, near the town, are the remains of Oliver Cromwell's fort, the ramparts of which are of earth: it is a pentagon, whose form remains to be traced only by the ditches and banks; three of the bastions are still existing. This fort was well situated, for it commands the whole town, and might at any time be surrounded with water. Several of the factory houses are now built within it, and a part of it forms a bason for the reception of vessels. This fort is said to have been reared with stones purloined from the neighbouring religious houses.

On the south side of the town, on an eminence, stood old Fort George, taken and blown up by the Highlanders in 1746. Just below this place is a handsome bridge, of seven arches, built over the river Ness. The fort had been an ancient castle, converted by General Wade into barracks; and, in this place tradition lays the scene of Duncan's murder by Macbeth, though others assert the event to have happened near Elgin. It was the occasional seat of royalty, and the memory of its ancient splendor is not entirely obliterated, as several old people still mention the busts, paintings, &c. with which it was once adorned.

Several places around Inverness command beautiful views, particularly a hill covered with firs, called Tomnaheurich. From this hill you may see the whole town, the Murray Frith, the River Ness, and various groups of distant mountains.

At Inverness, and some other towns in Scotland, is an officer, called the Dean of the Guild, who, assisted by a council, superintends the markets, regulates the price of provisions; and, if any house falls down, and the owner lets it lie in ruins for three years, the dean can absolutely dispose of the ground to the best bidder.

In the Church-street is an hospital, with a capital, Mr. Pennant says, of

three thousand pounds, the interest of which is distributed among the indigent inhabitants here. The house contains a respectable library, founded by a minister of the town.

The tradesmen, who are reputable and substantial, are very polite, and desirous to render every service in their power to strangers.

The inn we put up at is a modern building, erected at the expence of a society of gentlemen: I think they said brother masons. The rooms are comfortable, the landlord very attentive, and anxious to give satisfaction. I found that the two English gentlemen, who had lately dined at Raits with Mr. Parkhurst in my absence, were in the house, to whom I introduced myself; and, if some other gentlemen had remained an hour longer, the only Englishmen in the Highlands, on the same plan, would have met together; and, by giving an account of our different sport, no doubt, we should have passed a very joyous evening, which happened, as it was. Mr. G. to whom I sent the roebuck by Crosly, having made a very accurate drawing, had prudently ordered a pasty and haunch for dinner; and the latter having got the skin as well dressed as the time would admit, returned to take up his hawks at Moy, in order to go from thence to Avemore.

October 7.—Morning, heavy rain.

Rose early; but did not set out till ten o'clock, when the day turned out warm and fine, with only some flying clouds on the mountains, and, the sun shining, gave us every advantage, so that we were highly pleased as we passed along with occasional views of Loch Ness; and were induced to stop and take a drawing of one in particular.

The road between Inverness and the lake, about six miles, is most execrable, being covered with an infinite number of loose stones, which are very dangerous to the rider, and very bad for a carriage. I really could not have supposed so bad a road had been allowed to remain, especially when leading to the principal town in the North, and apprehended we should have a very tedious day's journey, as we could scarcely get on above a gentle trot.

The crops of corn, being half cut down, gave a most luxuriant appear-

ance to the country. Though I am told the grain raised here scarcely suffices for the inhabitants, yet fifty thousand head of black cattle, it is computed, are driven annually from the northern counties of Inverness, Ross, &c. into England. The people do not want industry, as appears from their manufactures, and the cultivated circle of land around them, which would be extended, and add beauty, as well as fertility, to the lower parts of the hills and mountains, if their efforts in agriculture were not damped by an extreme scarcity of fuel, for the mosses are greatly worn out; and when coals, loaded with an impolitic duty, are brought from the Frith of Forth, lime is burnt at a great expence.

The scarcity of corn, in the country around Inverness, is well illustrated by a circumstance, which, to the inhabitants, will doubtless appear somewhat trivial; but which, in the eye of a stranger, is not a little curious. It is common in those spots, that, amidst mosses and hills, are here and there covered with corn, to start a number of domestic fowls, like a covey of partridges. These creatures, which travel many a mile for such a repast, and, like the cattle of the country, do not find sustenance within a narrow compass, being equally lean and vigorous, will spring into the air, and fly over an incredible space, cackling like a parcel of wild-geese.

The large plantations of firs, intermixed with oaks, render the scene here truly magnificent; and, on approaching Loch Ness, a wonderful piece of water, the road runs winding along its shore, in the most fantastic manner imaginable.

Stopped at the inn, called the *General's Hut*. This is but an indifferent house; a few eggs, a mutton-chop, wine and other liquors, are all a traveller must expect; also hay and corn: and, upon the whole, it is only fit simply to bait at: we made use of it for this purpose, and then proceeded, as fast as possible, to the *Falls of Fiers*, which we saw to the greatest advantage, as there had been a deluge of rain.

These falls differ very much from each other; the lower one, I fancy, exceeds every thing of the kind in Britain, and, I should think, is equal to the boasted Fall of Tivoli.

The upper one is astonishingly rapid, and pent in between two sharp rocks, which seem as if cut through to receive the water. Some years since I had nearly made my exit, by crossing over it, which arose from the following circumstance:

I had heard an absurd story, that no Englishman ever dared venture this passage, and fully declared my determination to attempt it, regardless of the consequence. Mr. S. (a friend of mine), who was with me, not thinking it necessary to take a guide, we rode on, easily finding it by the noise it creates; tied our horses, and, seeing a rough, unpolished fir-tree laid across, in spite of his admonitions, I got over it, by the assistance of some few broken hurdles that were partially laid across this dreadful chasm. Having thus succeeded, (I should have mentioned that a favourite pointer followed me), I recrossed it with some difficulty; but all the pains we could take would not induce *Ponto* to trust himself. Inconsiderately, I again crossed it, thinking thus to tempt him; but it was to no purpose, and I still, more rashly, determined to bring him, not a very large dog, in my arms. In this absurd way, deaf to Mr. S.—'s entreaties, and dreading that my dog, a spirited one, on seeing us gone, would attempt it, and be lost, I very cautiously began to recross, taking *Ponto* in my arms. Mr. S. was in the greatest distress at my situation, which I did not consider so hazardous as it proved; for, being about half way over, the dog, through fear, sprang from me; I luckily fell flat on the fir, and, throwing my arms and legs across, continued passively, in this situation, for some minutes, till examining my position, I recovered my alarm, and crawled very slowly, till I came so near, that Mr. S. reached me a bough, without which, I was so flurried, that I might not have been able to have got over. Never was joy painted more visibly on any countenance than on his, upon seeing me safe. I began then to enquire after *Ponto*, who, I concluded, was dashed to atoms. It seems, that on my falling, he, at one bound from the fir, had made an immense leap, and got safe; but was so terrified, that he avoided us, and we found him waiting for us with the horses.

The pass, on enquiry, I found had not been used for a year or two, and was now deemed rotten. A more foolish attempt was never made. I appre-

hended, at the time, that some person would perish there; and, as we now crossed a neat and elegant bridge, this capital improvement induced me to make some enquiries concerning it, when I found that a gardener to the Lord of Fiers, whose name was Clisholm, being with some friends at a burial, when, agreeable to the custom of the Highlands, they generally drink freely, had, in this situation, left the company, taking his dog with him, tied by his garter: some little time after he was gone, the dog returned, and, making a piteous moaning, too plainly indicated what the *circle** suspected, that he had fallen into the dreadful chasm below, and that the dog had, by some means or other, saved himself.

Fifteen days were employed, in searching for this unfortunate man, to no purpose; some parts of his apparel, which had been torn from his person by the violence of the water, were found; but thirteen months elapsed before his remains were discovered, when his skeleton, and the rest of his apparel, almost worn away by the impetuosity of the waters, were found in a breach under a rock. This accident induced Mr. Fraser, from his well-known humanity, to build the above-mentioned bridge, which does great credit to the architect.

In order to see these falls to advantage, the bridge should be crossed, and, going down a very steep precipice, a noble view is obtained of the water, and of the arch above it; then following a broken foot-path immediately beyond the bridge, you are led to a very favourable view of the lower fall, seen in a most disadvantageous point from the other side.

* The custom of inviting the friends and neighbours of the deceased, to make merry at funerals, is not confined to the Highlands; but prevails generally in Ireland, and in some parts of the north of England. The company usually sit round the corpse in a circle; for, in many places, the merriment begins in the evening before the interment, and, at others, immediately after. This practice, when conducted with decorum, is recommended upon Christian principles, in the following excellent lines taken from the Spectator:

When first an infant breathes the vital air,
 Officious grief should welcome him to care.
 But joy should life's concluding scene attend,
 And mirth be kept to grace each dying friend.

Water-falls should always be viewed in such a manner, that the admirer may be at least on a level with the stream or river, if possible. Seen from above, much of their grandeur is lost, and this view is seldom to be obtained without great trouble.

The body of water was now immense, in consequence of the continued rains for three days, and the sun shining on it, as it broke into millions of particles, had a splendid and charming effect. The rocks above and around the falls are beautifully variegated with different forest-trees, and small shrubs. Raspberries also, now quite ripe, grow here in abundance: we tasted several, and found them superior to many other others in flavour.

Left this place highly satisfied; entered a cove, and, as it rained a little, remained till the shower subsided, having finished the drawing as much as the foam with which we were covered would admit.

We had not proceeded far, when the spring of the carriage again gave way, and as it seemed likely to take some time in adjusting, Mr. Gerrard and myself mounted our led-horses, and the wind blew away the rain which we had expected, having always dreaded the quantity, which we were given to understand, is constantly met with in the neighbourhood of Fort William, and on the western coast. Passing by Knocky, a small house belonging to Mr. Fraser, so surrounded by water that there is no entrance to it but by one little neck of land, we rode gently on to Fort Augustus.

Upon the road we overtook a very civil Highlander, whom, by his appearance, I took to be a substantial farmer. I asked him some questions, and, in particular, whose estate we were riding on; he replied it was his own, as were all the lands on both sides the road from thence to Fort Augustus, about four miles.

I thought it rather strange, that a man of his appearance should possess so much property; and, as he said he was going to Fort Augustus, we travelled on together, when I asked him several other questions, and found he was almost totally ignorant of the English language. I wished much to know what fish were taken in the two lakes we then saw, the one very near the

road; but all the answer I could obtain was, that they were full of black and white fish.

FORT AUGUSTUS.

On my arrival at the inn, I found that the Duke and Duchess of Gordon were at the governor's, from whom I received a very polite message and invitation to breakfast the next day: and, from the duke, I afterwards learnt that government had abandoned Fort William; a good specimen of the minister's saving plan. These forts are numerous and useless, and I trust that this economical plan will be followed up with respect to many others.

Fort Augustus is situated on a plain at the head of Loch Ness, between the rivers Tarff and Oich. The last of these is considerable, and has over it a bridge of three arches, well built, which opens a communication with the north and north-west. It is a small stronghold, formed by four bastions, within which is the governor's house, and is capable of containing about four hundred men; but will not admit of any defence, being commanded by several heights at no great distance. It was taken by the rebels in the year 1746, who immediately deserted it, after demolishing what they could. Near the fort is a small village, and a tolerable inn, and, below it a little pier, which affords shelter for small vessels and boats that come from Inverness to supply the garrison. The mountains on each side are very rocky and barren: nor is there much grazing or corn land in the bottom.

Dined at the fort: parted with the duke and duchess, who passed over the Corriarich, and, attended by my landlord, who very civilly offered to show me the country, &c. rode about three miles, when I obtained as beautiful a view as any I had yet seen.

We went to a place, called *Kamnihian*, *Camm'hym*, or the *Maiden's Leap*. On a rock is strongly marked the print, said to be of a female foot, which, from its size, must have made her a dangerous bed-fellow; but, to me, it rather appeared to be masculine. Tradition says, that a young girl, being pursued, to avoid being ravished, leaped off the rock, and threw herself across this lake.—*Credit qui vult.*

My landlord, I should have observed, had been a sergeant, was an Englishman, and settled in this country, though not over fond of his residence; he could by no means, I found, bear the superstitions of the Highlanders; and, as an instance of their belief in several absurdities, showed me the above curiosity: he further added, that he, or others, had more than once effaced the impression, yet it was soon after readjusted. Such predilection did the neighbours show to these absurd stories.

Loch Oich is a very delightful, finely-broken piece of water, about three miles long, and near one broad.

The banks are beautifully clothed with fine hanging woods, and nearly in the centre, on the north side, in a neck of land, are seen the ruins of the castle, burnt in the year 1745; a striking object, together with the house of Glengary, a pretty, neat, modern, gentleman's seat, having a thorough command of the lake, and, from the windows to the east, a fine view of the rapid river, discharging itself into it.

The north side of this house commands a noble prospect of the wildest and best-wooded glens in the Highlands, through which runs the charming Loch Gary, giving its name to the estate.

In the mountains have been discovered mines of that kind of black-lead of which pencils are made; and they yield a tolerable income to the owner.

Mr. Gerrard having taken a drawing of this charming landscape, we went forward about two miles, and then were driven upon the banks of a large expanse of water, between very wild, rocky, and stony mountains, having scarcely any thing to recommend it, but its extent and plenty of fish; being destitute of wood, except at one point of view, where you have a fine opening of a glen, one of the most desirable situations I ever saw for a gentleman's summer residence, and where formerly stood the family mansion of the *Lochiels*, destroyed in the year 1745.

The mountains extending from Fort Augustus have a manifest advantage, in point of profit, over those of Badenoch, being covered with a fine

verdure, and a numerous breed of cattle, far superior to any I have seen in Scotland: but in point of beauty and pleasure, the Badenoch country far exceeds these hills, which are spongy, and the climate rainy.

Came to High Bridge, one of the most lofty I ever saw, through the arches of which runs the river Brander, rolling over its rocky bottom.

Having letters of recommendation to two gentlemen, who were to show me some very fine views, and, also, the famous parallel lines or roads. I turned off from the main road to the left, and came to a neat, well-situated parsonage house, belonging to Mr. Ross, and by much the most comfortable residence of the kind I have met with. From this gentleman we received every possible civility, and then proceeded two miles farther, to Major McDonald's, whose situation, in the centre of the Lochaber mountains, is truly romantic. Here we drank tea and passed the evening.

October 8.—Early in the morning, attended by the major's brother, we took a view of the parallel lines, after which I returned to Keppoch, passing by some very picturesque, finely-winding glens, ornamented with an infinite variety of different kinds of wood, with many water-falls; and a quantity of deep, dark lins*, which, in any other place would be much admired.

After making our acknowledgments for the civilities we had received, without which we could not have seen these wonders of nature and art to so much advantage, we trotted back to Mr. Ross, who had promised me the honour of his company to pass a day at Fort William. We found him at home waiting for us; and, having passed a short time in admiring, once more, his pretty situation, we set out for the fort.

The day was very favourable for shooting; and, casting my dogs a little out of the road, I soon found some game, and killed two brace.

We found the road excellent, and to the left were gratified with a charming view of Ben Nevis, which, from the uncommon clearness of the day, we saw to every advantage, and a most immense mountain it is.

* So called in Scotland; and are deep basons, excavated by the constant falling of the water from above.

FORT WILLIAM.

Fort William, built in King William's reign, and so named from him, is surrounded by vast mountains, which occasion almost perpetual rains; the loftiest are on the south side; Ben Nevis soars above the rest, to a height of one thousand four hundred and fifty yards above the level of the sea. The present fort, which is a triangle, has two bastions, and is capable of holding a garrison of eight hundred men, but will not admit of any regular defence. There are now two companies of infantry in it; the hills near it command the whole fort, and part of the wall having lately fallen down, has left the north side quite open.

The distance between Fort William and Inverness is but fifty miles, yet the climate is very different, and may be accounted for this way: the mountains on the south-west, from which the rain generally comes, are so exceedingly high, that the clouds are arrested, and shed among them the greatest part of their moisture. These western mountains are also so strangely formed, and heaped up to the sky in so many perpendicular points, that they naturally occasion eddies around them, and draw the wind in various directions, making, as it were, a kind of vortex, so that the clouds cannot possibly escape them. By this means, the eastern part of Scotland, which lies in their direction, is prevented from receiving the quantity of rain by which it would otherwise be watered.

About a mile from Fort William is Inverlochy, an old castle with large round towers, supposed to have been built by Edward I. In 790 Inverlochy was one of the seats of the kings of Scotland. About a mile from this castle, on the river Lochy, which empties itself into the sea at Fort William, is a salmon fishery, the joint property of Lochiel and the Duke of Gordon. Two hundred barrels, containing from twenty-five to twenty-seven fish, have been taken in one year, which is reckoned a very successful fishing. These barrels have occasionally sold as high as seven pounds; but their price varies, and they have been much lower.

This fishery is farmed for a rent of one hundred and fifty pounds per annum, including land, to the value of fifty pounds per annum more. The fishery, there is every reason to suppose, would be very profitable, if means were taken to fish the river properly, which does not at present appear to be the case.

The salmon caught here is equal in quality to that taken in the Severn.

October 9.—A very fine painter's day.

We rose early, and were much delighted with the charming prospects from the windows, having in front a beautiful, highly-improved lawn, kept in the most elegant manner; commanding a view across Loch Linn, bounded by the castle of Bricaldane. On the western side of the house is a very fine grove of trees, happily so placed as to project, through which a very judicious opening is made, giving a distant view of the Island of Lismore, bounded by the beautiful Isle of Mull.

We breakfasted, and then taking a walk, saw the many beauties with which this place abounds, proceeding along a most charming promenade of some miles, which winds through a wood, elegantly diversified with different forest-trees and flowering shrubs, all in the highest health. Amongst the forest-trees I observed some very large ash and oak trees; the latter, though not so capital as the Cowthorp oak, I really think are equal to most of those in the neighbourhood of Thornville, where trees grow to the greatest perfection. In this wood, also, the roes breed in great numbers, being better preserved by the gentlemen; and the profitable fishery employing the inhabitants, their attention is taken off from poaching, which practice has nearly destroyed the breed of that elegant animal in the vale of Badenoch.

Having received very indistinct and contrary accounts of my intended route, I stopt at a Mr. Campbell's, of Airds, where we were very politely received, and, though strangers, treated with that hospitality which is so much practised in the North, and so little known in the South. The gentlemen, who are sportsmen, we found, were just returned from an expedition to Mull.

The ferry is broad but safe.

Riding on about two miles farther, you have a favourable view of Loch Kneil, situated in an amphitheatre of hills; to the south is one continued scene of dusky moors, which would appear very rough in any other part of the world; but, contrasted with the still-more rugged, high hills and glens to the north-east, they seem perfectly smooth and level; here is also a distinct view of the castles of Ellan Stalker and Dunstaffnage.

To the north appear the mountains of Morven, or the country of Ossian, rising above Aird; and, to the north-west you have a more noble and extensive view of Loch Kneil, bounded by that beautiful almost isle; on the point of which stands the fair mansion of my friend Mr. Campbell.

The mountain, beautifully broken in its form, and still more so in its variegated trees, is rich to a degree, being clothed to the very summit with pines and oaks; and above them, you have a beautiful view of the gently-rising Mull, the *ne plus ultra* of sportsmen. The bay is the finest I have hitherto seen, abounding with large and small vessels trading to different parts of the world.

The Castle of Brìcaldane is likewise distinctly seen in this amphitheatre; and I admired it some time, being unable to cross the ferry, as the wind and tide was against us, and the latter flowing over some huge, rugged rocks, we were by no means tempted to hurry the ferryman, who best knew the proper time: in fact, if we had not had at least thirty miles to go to Inverary, and two ferries to cross, without any accommodation on the road, we could have passed great part of the day here with pleasure.

We waited two hours, which were not unemployed; for while Mr. Gerrard corrected his sketch of Dunstaffnage Castle, I narrowly inspected it, and afterwards wrote down some anecdotes, obtained from a very judicious person, who resided on the other side of the river.

Dunstaffnage Castle is built upon a rock, called St. Stephen's Mount, on the south side of Loch Etive, the sides of which have been pared, to render it precipitous, and make it conformable to the shape of the castle. This castle is fabled to have been founded by Ewin, a Pictish monarch, contemporary with Julius Cæsar, naming it after himself Evonium. In

fact, the founder is unknown; but it is certainly of great antiquity, and continued the seat of the Scottish princes till the ninth century, but is now in a very ruinous condition. Mr. Campbell, the proprietor, has built a modern house within the circuit of the old walls, by which it is defended from all weathers; thus blending modern convenience with ancient majesty and strength.

Tradition says, that the famous stone, on which the Scottish monarchs were crowned, and esteemed the palladium of North Britain, was long preserved in Dunstaffnage Castle, and continued here, as the coronation chair, till the reign of Kenneth II. who removed it to Scone, in order to secure his reign, according to the inscription:

*Ni fallat Scotiquocumque locatum,
Invenient lapidem, regnare tenentur ibidem.*

In Pennant's Tour is a plate of an inauguration sculpture, representing a crowned monarch, seated with a book in his hand, containing the laws of the kingdom, which he is swearing to observe. This sculpture, which is of ivory, curiously carved, was found in a ruinous part of the castle, and is supposed to have been cut in commemoration of this chair.

This castle is square, the inside only eighty-seven feet, and is yet, in part, inhabitable. At three of the corners are round towers, one of them projects very little. The entrance towards the sea is, at present, by a staircase, in ancient times probably by a draw-bridge, which fell from a little gateway. The tops are embattled, and the masonry appears of a very ancient date.

In 1307, this castle was possessed by Alexander M'Dougal, Lord of Argyll, a friend to the English; but was that year reduced by Robert Bruce, when M'Dougal sued for peace with that prince, and was received into favour.

About the year 1455, this appears to have been the residence of the Lords of the Isles; for here James, last Earl of Douglas, after his defeat in Annandale, fled to Donald, the Regulus of the time, and

prevailed on him to take arms, and carry on a plundering war against his monarch, James II.

At a small distance from the castle is a ruined chapel, once an elegant building, and at one end an inclosure for a family cemetery, built in 1740. Opposite to these is a high precipice, ending abruptly, and turning suddenly toward the south-east. A person, concealed in the recess of the rock, a little beyond the angle, surprises friends stationed at some distance, beneath the precipice, with a very remarkable echo, of any word, or even sentence, he pronounces, which reaches the last distinct and unbroken. The repetition is single, but is remarkably clear.

There is a practice at Dunstaffnage which expresses, in a very apt and pleasing, though somewhat whimsical manner, at once the hospitality of the country, and the feudal attachment of the people to their chief. When a stranger arrives, or rather a strange company, (for visitors in the Highlands come frequently in crowds), a pole is immediately erected on the battlements of the old castle, with a table-cloth affixed to the end of it. This flag of peace serves as a signal to the tenants, of certain possessions, to bring fresh salmon, and other fish that may be in season. Other tenants embrace that occasion of showing their attachment, or paying their court to the laird, by presenting any thing that is rare, or that they think may then be acceptable.

Near Dunstaffnage there are periodical exhibitions of one of the grandest, as well as most extraordinary, spectacles that is perhaps to be seen on the face of the earth. At the ferry, called *Conhuil*, or the *Raging Flood*, Loch Etive, swelled at once by the tributary waters of Loch Awe, and the spring-tides, discharges itself, in a mighty cataract, through a straight formed by a rock protended from either shore, as by a frolic of nature. The tide first rolling inward into the lake over the sloping banks of the rock, and then, in its return from this arm of the sea, falling over the precipitous face of the rocks towards the west, from a height of about fifteen feet, astonishes and deafens all around it, and is heard, in some directions, many miles, while the fishing-boats, plying in the smooth water, at

the extremities of the eddies produced by the current, form a pleasing sight to a spectator from Dunstaffnage Castle. Were this appearance as permanent as it is striking, it must have been celebrated by the poet, the painter, and the natural historian. Undoubtedly it furnishes one of the best subjects for landscapes that is even to be conceived.

The ferryman thought he could now attempt to take us over, notwithstanding the high wind and the rapidity of the current, and, by the time he could return, he expected the tide would be so high as to make it safe to bring over the carriage and horses in the horse-boat.

Accordingly we embarked, and, with some difficulty, our boatmen rowed us up the current, which ran very strong, increased by the wind; but, being well accustomed to this business, they judiciously carried us as high up the stream as was necessary, and then, falling into it, we were conveyed almost as instantaneously as a gun-shot, to the opposite shore. The horses were as safely brought over after us, when we proceeded on our journey, it being now three o'clock; and, exclusive of the ferry over Port Senecan, the passage of which seemed arduous, if not impracticable, we had twenty-four miles to Inverary.

Having trotted on some distance, and finding the wind increase, I determined to change my route, and go to Dalmally, where I knew we should find a very good inn.

Following now the course of Loch Etive, we passed some delightful scenes, and as we were admiring the happily-placed mansion of Mr. Knox, I heard a shot, and immediately saw a covey of partridges fly over my head; I jumped off my horse, and, having my gun slung in the German fashion, fired, but at a great distance; however, having marked them, I killed a brace, and then proceeded up Glen Brander, through which the river Brander runs, or rather flies. I thought the Spey and the Leven rapid; but they are by no means to be compared to this river, which, in size and rapidity, far surpasses any thing I have ever seen, not excepting even the Rhine,

The foot of the Brander falls into the salt-water of Loch Etive, which runs far up the country, receiving the waters of Loch Awe*, near which is a village, and a salmon fishery of considerable value. At Bun Awe, on the upper end of it, the Furness Company have a house and place for making charcoal, for which purpose they have purchased a great quantity of the neighbouring wood.

On the northern bank may be discerned the site of Ardehatten, a priory of monks of Vallis Caulium, founded about 1215, by an ancestor of the M'Dougals of Lorn. Here Robert Bruce is said to have held a parliament, but, more probably, a council; for he remained long master of this country before he got entire possession of Scotland.

From this place the road bends a little inward into the country, passing over a number of small hills, which have been covered with oak and birch, though the wood is now mostly cut down for the purpose of making charcoal. Among these hills, as in a great many other places in Scotland, you frequently discover the stumps of large trees, which prove, that very large timber grew here formerly, and are so many incentives to the gentlemen of Scotland to make plantations of forest-trees, since what has flourished in one period may also flourish in another.

Pursued our way by the banks of the Brander, which winds through a very steep and broken valley, in no respect beautiful, except from the water dashing over the immense rocks which lie concealed below the surface, and break the current into a thousand different shapes. For three miles, the road here is barely tolerable; but it rather improves, as you gain a view of Loch Awe, being carried over a mountain, which has been done with infinite expence and trouble, more than has been bestowed on any of the roads I had passed.

When on the summit of this mountain, a very interesting view is presented, both up and down the lake, which appears studded with islands.

* Some considerable iron-works are carried on by Mr. Knox, of Coningston, in Cumberland, and other English gentlemen, on this river.

The river Brander, likewise meandering through the valley, happily chequered with clumps and coppices in various forms; and the back-ground, closed by the stupendous mountains of Croughen, made this scene equal to any I had yet beheld; therefore, the next day was devoted to the taking a sketch of it, and we proceeded, as it was now too late. The moon rose extremely splendid, we thought uncommonly so; for she dazzled our eyes in looking at her, and, the night being perfectly dry and serene, there was not a particle of humidity round her orb.

At length we arrived, very hungry, at

DALMALLY.

Here we found a most excellent inn; indeed, much superior to what it was when I was last here, though I then thought it a very good one, and passed in it some pleasant days, rendered additionally so, by the party I was then with giving a ball, which was the first time I had seen Highland dancing.

While the supper was getting ready, having heard the sound of music, and understanding it was a dancing-master's ball, in consequence of the harvest-home, I made the landlord introduce us to him. So goodly a scene, and so motly a set, exceeded any thing I had before met with. They were dancing a country-dance when we entered.

The company consisted of about fourteen couple, who all danced the true *Glen Orgue* kick. I have observed, that every district of the Highlands has some peculiar cut; and they all shuffle in such a manner as to make the noise of their feet keep exact time. Though this is not the fashionable style of dancing, yet, with such dancers, it had not a bad effect.

But I never shall forget the arrogance of the master; his mode of marshaling his troops, his directions, and other manœuvres, were truly ridiculous; he felt himself greater than any adjutant disciplining his men, and managed them much in the same manner.

The scholars having done, sat down, when, from the closeness of the room, and the great *pains* they had taken to warm themselves, though, no doubt, greatly fatigued before with the hard labour of the day, we were very desirous of retiring as expeditiously as possible, requesting their acceptance of some whiskey-punch to drink their landlord's health, Lord Braedalbane, but were not permitted, till we had seen a specimen of the master's talents, who was requested to dance a hornpipe.

After having made several apologies for his want of pumps, &c. *pour les formes*, he ordered his fiddler, in a very dictatorial style, to play his favourite tune, and from a shelf, tumbled down a pair of Highland brogues, in which he soon stood on the floor and began his essay.

The eyes of the scholars were all upon him, and, at every extraordinary exertion they showed signs of their perfect approbation, by loud plaudits; and, if he did not dance with the correct taste of Vestris, he at least cut some capers which that self-conceited performer would have found it difficult to imitate.

From the causes already mentioned, which by no means subsided, but rather increased, we were heartily glad when he had finished. But it gave me great pleasure to see these poor people so innocently amused, and to observe with what spirit they danced, after the fatigues of the day, which evidently proved the strong inclination the Highlanders have for this favourite amusement. How much more rational is this conduct than that of our labourers in England, who, in their way, would be intoxicated and riotous?

We sat down to a plentiful, neatly-served supper, and having tasted nothing since breakfast, devoured all before us.

October 10.—Morning most charming, but rather sultry.

We made a hasty breakfast, and Mr. Gerrard returned back to Loch Awe, about two miles, to take a view of Kilchurn Castle, which we had much admired the preceding night.

Loch Awe is long and waving; its little isles tufted with trees and just appearing above the water. Its two great feeds of water at each extremity, and its singular lateral discharge near one of them, sufficiently mark this

great lake, whose whole extent is supposed to be little less than thirty miles. It is finely indented by promontories, advancing and spreading into it a great way, and joined to the main land only by a narrow isthmus. These, with the islands, form a prospect highly variegated and pleasant.

On the east side there is a great deal of land fit for corn, and some of it is applied to that purpose; but what seems best adapted to the genius of the people is grazing. A great number of black cattle are reared here, and a still greater number of sheep.

At the north end of the loch is the ancient castle of Kilchurn, the most elegant ruins I ever saw. It belongs to the Earl of Braedalbane, whose grand-father inhabited it. The great tower was repaired by his lordship, and garrisoned by him in 1745, for the service of government, in order to prevent the rebels making use of that great pass across the kingdom, but it is now fast falling to decay, having lately been struck by lightning.

This castle, in barbarous times, was the ancient den or stronghold of the family, from which they issued forth at the head of their retainers, like the princes and heroes of Homer, and like those of all uncivilized times and countries, to commit occasional depredations on their neighbours. The present possessor has the happiness to live in a milder age, and one more suited to the natural benignity of his disposition. The sculking place of his remote ancestors is abandoned. The Earl of Braedalbane, following the example of his noble predecessor, while he opens his eyes and his fortune to the general good of every part of the country, exercises an elegant hospitality in his charming residence at Loch Tay, in Perthshire, which shows how much the beauty and magnificence of nature may still be improved by art and cultivated taste.

When I was in this country before, I killed some black game, directly opposite to where Mr. Gerrard intended to make his sketch; and had then an extraordinary point at six old black cocks together, a very rare circumstance, as they are a lonely bird, and seldom are seen together, except in crowding, or, as they call it here, belling time, when they fight most furiously.



LOCH AWE.

While Mr. Gerrard was sketching on one side of the lake, I tried the other; and having a perfect view of each other's motions, we adjusted our plan so, that when he had done I should return and meet him, to proceed to Inverary.

The day was well adapted to taking the most exquisite views, but rather too close for shooting. After some trouble, I found a brood, which were uncommonly wild; nevertheless, I fired, and though I thought I saw my bird spring, it did not fall, I therefore hope I was mistaken.

Mr. Gerrard having finished, we set forward; we found the road good, but the continued hills render it a severe stage for a carriage, though not felt on horseback. To the left there is a continuation of barren moors, but to the right the eye is feasted with several views of the lake, perpetually varying; and the corn fields, now paying their tribute to the long-expecting farmers, made the scene quite alive.

Across the lake is a distinct view of Hayfield, the seat of Mr. McDougall, happily situated in a lawn, as green as verdure can make it; and seems to want nothing but protecting plantations, now infantine, to render the situation most beautiful and warm; at present, the back ground has a cold, unfinished appearance. Black game are here very plentiful.

Dalmally, of which we now took our leave, is pleasantly situated on a large river, that has its source near the black mount. At the north end of Loch Awe, into which it falls, is a large, straggling village. The minister has a tolerable house, with an income of one hundred pounds, besides a glebe of about forty acres of pretty good land. Labour, in this country, is from ten-pence to one shilling a day. In a neighbouring mountain, called Ben Chruachan, is a lead mine, which they have just begun to work, and met with very good success. The miners of Ben Chruachan have taxed themselves in a moiety of their wages, for the purchase of books, and the gradual establishment of a library, for their amusement in this sequestered situation. The fact is strongly descriptive of the speculative and literary turn of the Scots.

Within four miles of Inverary the country very evidently marks the dif-

ference between lands unadorned and uncultivated, and those protected, encouraged, and fostered, under the hands of a judicious master. The road is excellent, and the approach, at every instant, becomes more interesting. The woods, varied in their forms, constantly called off the eye, not half satisfied, from one object to another, and the day, adding fresh lustre to these beauties of nature, made me conceive my horse went too fast.

There never was a spot so judiciously assisted as this has been, nor was nature ever more profuse; she seems here to have exerted all her powers. Hills vie with woods, whether the clothing or the clothed shall have the pre-eminence. The forms being so regularly and pleasantly broken, that the agreeable variety of shade, in general so much wished for, is found here at every angle; nor is the watery element willing to relinquish her magnificence to the terrestrial goddess of the woods, the immensely-noble Loch Fine supports the contest, supplying every species of sea-fish, and adds infinite grandeur to the scene, reflecting the different beauties of the surrounding mountains.

The length of this beautiful expanse of water, from the eastern end to the point of Lomond, is about thirty Scotch miles, though its breadth is scarcely two. Its depth is from sixty to seventy fathom. There are no islands in it, and the mountains are so very high, that they are, in general, covered with clouds. At their bases, near the water, there is a good deal of underwood; and in some spots the land is flat enough to admit of corn and grass for hay. There is a great quantity of sea-weed thrown on the beach, which makes excellent manure, and is applied to that purpose. By these means good crops are produced; but so much rain falls that the poor cottager seldom reaps the fruits of his labour. The culture of potatoes here, as in every part of the country, is an object of great care and attention, and answers very well; but the corn, after it is sown, is greatly neglected, and suffered to be choked up with weeds, while numbers of people are walking about perfectly idle.

This arm of the sea is noted for the vast shoals of herrings that appear here in July, and continue till January. It likewise produces, in great

abundance, cod, haddocks, whittings, and various other kinds of fish; the herrings, however, are the most numerous. The highest season is from September to Christmas, when near six hundred boats, with four men each, are employed. A chain of nets is used (for several are united) of a hundred fathoms in length. "As the herrings swim at very uncertain depths," observes a late writer, "so the nets are sunk to the depth the shoal is found to take: the means, therefore, depends much on the judgment, or good fortune, of the fishers, in taking their due depths; for it often happens that one boat will take multitudes while the next does not catch a single fish, which makes the boatmen perpetually enquire of each other about the depth of their nets. These are kept up by buoys to a proper pitch, the ropes that run through them, fastened with pegs, and, by drawing up or letting out the rope, (after taking out the pegs), they adjust the situation, and then replace them. Sometimes the fish swim in twenty fathoms water, sometimes in fifty, and oftentimes even at the bottom."

Part of those caught are salted for the use of the neighbouring country, and part sent to Glasgow for exportation, two hundred or three hundred horses being every day brought to the water-side from very distant parts. It is computed that each boat gets about forty pounds in the season. A barrel holds five hundred herrings, if they are of the best kind; at a medium seven hundred; but, if more, they are reckoned very poor. The price is about one pound four shillings per barrel; but there is a drawback of the duty on salt for those that are exported.

The great rendezvous of vessels for the fishery of the Western Isles is at Campbeltown, in Cantyre, where they clear out on the 12th of September, and sometimes three hundred busses are seen there at a time: they must return to their different ports by January the 13th, where they ought to receive the premium of two pounds ten shillings per tun of herrings; but it is said to be very ill paid, which is a great discouragement; for, otherwise, this fishing might be increased, and become a

source of great profit to individuals, as well as general advantage to the nation*.

"The herrings of Loch Finn are as uncertain in their migration as they are on the coast of Wales. They had for numbers of years, quitted that water, but appeared again there within this dozen years. Such is the case with the lochs on all this western coast: not but people despair too often of finding them, from one or two unsuccessful trials in the beginning of the season: perhaps from not adjusting their nets to the depth the fish happen to swim in: but if, each year, a small vessel or two was sent to make a thorough trial in every branch of the sea on this coast, they would undoubtedly find shoals of fish in one or the other."

As we advanced, the lake by degrees became bolder, and, at its termination, the beautiful woods, through which the road winds with great taste, the lawn, formed most happily into the appearance of the richest English dairy farm, clothed with excellent verdure, and herds of the finest cattle, bursts on the eye: centrically situated, in which luxuriant scene, stands the

CASTLE OF INVERARY,

THE SEAT OF HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLE.

This is a very elegant, modern building; but has rather a monastic appearance, from the windows being all turned with a Gothic arch.

From the immense size of the hills, and the expanse of water round it, this residence, though of great extent, at first sight appears much smaller than in reality it is. The house was, as usual, crowded with company, and here I had the honour to be introduced to Lord Stonfield, a gentleman of great good sense, and remarkable for his judicious and useful observations.

* *Turnids*, called here *mackerel sture*, are very frequently caught in the herring season, which they follow to prey on. They are taken with a strong hook, fastened to a rope, and baited with a herring: as soon as they are hooked they lose all spirit, and are drawn up without any resistance; are very active when at liberty, and jump and frolic on the surface of the water.—*Br. Zoology*, III. No. 133.

His lordship favoured me with an accurate account of the wonderful phenomenon lately felt on Loch Awe*. A similar concussion of most of the large pieces of fresh water in England, as well as of the sea, was noticed on the first of November, 1755, the very day the great earthquake happened at Lisbon; it was therefore thought probable that this might portend some fatal subterraneous eruption; but happily no such event took place.

The Duke of Argyle's castle stands very pleasantly, considering the mountainous country in which it is situated. It forms a square, with four turrets: one story is sunk below the surface of the ground; and round this there is a large area, surrounded by iron rails. The castle has a superstructure issuing from the midst, which is a sort of quadrangular turret, glazed on every side, intended to give light to the central part of the house; but which has rather a heavy appearance on the outside, and is by no means pleasing within. In the attic story are eighteen good bed-chambers, and the house contains many other good rooms, though none of them are very large. This castle, the principal seat of the Duke of Argyle, chief of the Campbells, was built by Duke Archibald. It is composed of a coarse *tapis ollaris*, according to Mr. Pennant, brought from the other side of Loch Fyne, and is the same kind with that found in Norway, of which the King of Denmark's palace at Copenhagen is built. Near the new castle are some remains of the old†.

* On Sunday September 12, 1784, between the hours of eight and nine in the morning, the water, at the east end of Loch Tay, ebbed about three hundred feet, and left the channel, or bed, of the loch quite dry, at that part where the water is usually three feet in depth, and, being gathered together in the form of a wave, rolled on about three hundred feet farther to the westward, until it met a similar wave rolling in a contrary direction; when these clashed together, they rose to the perpendicular height of four feet and upwards, emitting a white foam on the top of the water: then this wave, so formed, took a lateral direction southward, towards the shore, gaining upon the land four feet beyond the high-water mark of the loch at that time; then it returned from the shore into the lake, and continued to ebb and flow for about an hour and a half, the wave gradually diminishing in size, every time it reached the shore, until it wholly disappeared. It is to be observed that, during this phenomenon, there was an absolute calm. Upon the two following days, at an hour a little later in the morning, there was the same appearance, but not in any respect to the same degree.

† The old castle, Mr. Pennant tells us, had long been the seat of the Campbells, and was inhabited, about the latter end of the fourteenth century, by *Colin*, surnamed *Jongailach*, or the *Wan-*

The woods around are very extensive, as are those near the house. The trees, many of which bear marks of high antiquity, are chiefly beech; there are also some oaks, chesnuts, and ash, with a few others, as the plane and silver fir; these, variegated with thriving plantations, beautifully diversify the rides around this charming spot, some of which extend upwards of twelve miles, regularly formed, and, from this quantity of wood, agreeably shaded.

About three hundred acres of land, clear of wood, is laid down chiefly for hay and grazing land: very little of it is applied to the purpose of raising corn; which, if we may judge from the duke's having a large structure in his park for the purpose of drying grain, the quantity of rain that falls being so great as to render this necessary, would be a very arduous attempt.

Though the land around Inverary rises every way into mountains, *derfid*, on account of his marvellous exploits. One of these whims, adds he, and not the least, may be reckoned the burning of his house at Inverary, on receiving a visit from the *O'Neiles* of Ireland, that he might have pretence to entertain his illustrious guests in his magnificent field equipage.

The great tower, which was standing till lately, was built by the black Sir Colin, for his nephew, the Earl of Argyle, at that time a minor: it bears no date; but its foundation is prior to the year 1480, the time of Sir Colin's death. The power of the family, and the difficult approach of the place, preserved it from the insult of enemies, excepting in two instances: in December, 1644, amidst the snows of this severe climate, the enterprising *Montrose* poured down his troops on Inverary, through ways its chieftain thought impervious. The Marquis of Argyle made his escape in a little fishing boat, and left his people to the merciless weapons of the invaders, who, for a twelve-month, carried fire and sword through the whole Campbell race, retaliating, as is pleaded, the similar barbarities of its leader.

After the unfortunate expedition of his son in 1685, this place and people experienced a fresh calamity: another clan, deputed by the government to carry destruction throughout the name, was let slip, armed with the dreadful writ of fire and sword, to act at discretion among an unhappy people: seventeen gentlemen of the name were instantly executed. On the spot is erected a column, with an inscription commemorating, with a moderation that does honour to the writer, the justice of the cause in which his relations fell.

In 1715, Archibald, Duke of Argyle, then Earl of Islay, collected a few troops in this place, in order to prevent the rebels from becoming masters of so important a pass, through which they might have led their forces to Glasgow, and from thence into the north of England. General Gordon approached within a small distance, reconnoitred it, and actually cut fascines to make the attack; but was deterred from it by the determined appearance of the garrison.

it has the advantage of flat ground to the extent of about one thousand two hundred acres.

About half a mile from the house is the garden, which comprehends near seven acres of ground, having a very large hot-house, and some hot-walls. Cherries and other common fruits, I am told, thrive very well. Near this garden is a large building, erected, with some taste, for cattle in winter, cart-houses, &c. and a number of dwelling-houses for the servants employed in husbandry. In fact, the place bids fair, in a short time, to be very magnificent, and is only disgraced by the view of the old town, composed of the most wretched hovels.

Two rivers discharge themselves into Loch Fine, the one near the duke's house, the other about a mile distant, over each of which there is a handsome bridge. On the top of a hill, called Dunaquaick, which is eight hundred and seventy feet high, there stands a square building, by way of a summer-house, with two windows in it. From this lofty eminence you have a very extensive view of Loch Fine, and the neighbouring mountains, and a bird's-eye prospect of the castle and all the plantations.

The hill is covered with fir and birch, said to have been planted by the Earl of Argyle: they thrive greatly, the trees at the bottom of the hill being very large; for I observed beech from nine to twelve feet and a half in girth, pines nine, and a lesser maple between seven and eight; but they gradually become less as you ascend; and, near the top, they are reduced to brush-wood.

There is a tolerable road to the top of this hill for horses.

In the park there is a very singular curiosity. A lake, called *Loch Dow*, at the influx of the tide, abounds with both sea and fresh-water fish; and I am well informed, that salmon, pike, herrings, trout, and whittings, have been taken together in the same haul of the net.

The dairy, which is about the distance of a mile, is neat to a degree, and merits the attention of those who visit this noble residence. The castle, as I before observed, loses much of its magnificence, owing to the very great objects that surround it; therefore, a better idea of its grandeur is conveyed

by viewing it from any one of its angles; and, in my opinion, it would have had a better effect, though possibly it would not have been so convenient, had the whole of the offices, which, on the present plan, are sunk, been added to it as wings, with a handsome colonnade. Indeed, on my return, examining the inside, I found the scale of the building much larger, as well as more elegant, than I could have any conception of from its external appearance; many of the rooms are not only superbly furnished, but the ceilings beautifully painted and gilded; however, several of them, are not yet finished.

Though there are no historical pictures here, we met with some excellent portraits, among which we contemplate the images of those patriots and heroes, the splendor of whose actions has raised the family of Argyle, even in an enlightened and warlike nation, to distinguished celebrity and eminence. Mr. Pennant does not reckon above two of these of the first merit, however; these he describes, and accompanies with some amusing anecdotes, which I take the liberty to quote for the entertainment of the reader. They are the heads of the Marquis of Argyle, and his son the Earl of Argyle, both of whom lived in the civil wars.

The first has his hair short, his dress black, with a plain turn white-over, and was, says he, "a distinguished person during the reign of Charles I. and the consequent usurpation: a man, as his own father styled him, of craft and subtlety. In his heart no friend to the royal cause, temporizing according to the complexion of the times; yielding a hearty but secret concurrence with the disaffected powers, and extending a feigned and timid aid to the shackled royalty of Charles II. when he intrusted himself to his northern subjects in the year 1650. At all times providing pleas of merit with both parties, apparently sincere with the usurpers only. With them he took an active part during their plenitude of power: yet, at first, claimed only protection, freedom, and payment of his debts, due from the English parliament. His interest seems to have been constantly in view. While Charles was in his hands he received, from that penetrating prince, a promissory note for great honours and emoluments. He is charged with encouraging his

his people in various acts of murder and cruelty; but the provocations he had received, by the horrible ravages of Montrose, may perhaps extenuate retaliation, on such of his neighbours, who, for any thing that appears, partook of the excesses. He is charged also with possessing himself of the estates of those who were put to death by his authority; a charge not repelled in his fine defence on his trial. His generosity in declining to take an open part in the prosecution of his arch enemy, Montrose, would have done him great honour, had he not meanly placed himself in a window to see the fallen hero pass in a cart, to receive judgment. On the Restoration, he fell a victim to his *manes*. It was intended that he should undergo the same ignominious death; but it was afterwards changed to beheading. I could, says he, die like a ROMAN, but I chuse rather to die like a CHRISTIAN. He fell with heroism in his last moments, with truth, exculpating himself from having any concern in the murder of his royal master; calming his conscience with the opinion, that his criminal compliances were but the epidemic disease and fault of the times. His guilt of treason was indisputable; but the act of grace in 1641, and the other in 1651, ought to have been his securities from a capital punishment."

"The Earl of Argyle was a steady, virtuous, but unfortunate character. Firm to his trust through all the misfortunes of his royal master, Charles II. was appointed colonel of his guards in 1650; but scorned to receive his commission from the tyrannical states of his country, and insisted on receiving it from his majesty alone. Neither the defeats at Dunbar nor at Worcester abated his zeal for the desperate cause: he betook himself to the Highlands, and, for a long time, resisted the usurping powers, notwithstanding he was cast off, and his adherents declared traitors, by the zealous marquis, his father. Suffered, after his submission to the irresistible tyranny of the times, a long imprisonment. His release, at the Restoration, subjected him but to fresh troubles: ingratitude seems to have been the first return to his services. A bare recital of his success with the king, in repelling certain injuries done him, was intitled *leasing making*, or creating dissensions between his majesty and his subjects. For this, by the *Scottish*

laws, he was condemned to lose his head: a sentence too unjust to be permitted to be put in execution. After a long imprisonment, he was restored to favour, to his fortune, and to the title of earl. In all his actions he preserved a patriotic, yet loyal, moderation; but in 1681, delivering in an explanation of an oath he was to take, as a test not to attempt any alteration in church or state, he was again disgraced, tried, and a second time condemned: and the infamous sentence would have been executed, had he not escaped from the power of his enemies. In 1685, in concert with the Duke of Monmouth, he made a fatal attempt to restore the liberties of his country, then invaded by James II. He failed in the design, and was put to death on his former sentence.

"On the day of execution, he ate his dinner, and took his afternoon's nap with his usual composure, falling with a calmness and constancy suitable to the goodness of his life.

"Just before he left the prison, his wife, a frugal lady, asked him for the golden buttons he wore in his sleeves, lest the executioner should get them. *Is this a time for such a request?* says the brave earl. He ascended the scaffold, and then took them out, and ordered them to be delivered to the countess."

"A little before his death he composed his epitaph, I think still to be seen in the Grey Friars church-yard, Edinburgh. The verses are rather to be admired, as they showed the serenity of his mind at that awful period, than for the smoothness of the numbers: but the Latin translation, by the Rev. Mr. Jamison, of Glasgow, cannot but be acceptable to every reader of taste." The English is as follows:

"Thou passenger, who shalt have so much time
As view my grave, and ask what was my crime;
No stain of error, no black vice's brand
Did me compel to leave my native land.
Love to my country, truth condemn'd to die,
Did force my hands forgotten arms to try.
More from friends' fraud, my fall proceeded hath,
Than foes, though thrice they did attempt my death.

On my design though Providence did frown,
Yet God at last shall surely raise his own:
Another hand, with more successful speed,
Shall raise the remnant, bruise the serpent's head."

But to return to the house. The range of offices underground are not only extensive, but surrounded by a most spacious area, corresponding with the Gothic style of the building. But it struck me, with respect to the latter, that if the architect had built the house on any other plan than that of sinking the whole of the offices, the edifice, on the same scale, would have been more roomy, better calculated to correspond with the surrounding objects, and affording a neatness and salubrity which areas cannot have.

However, from these offices, placed as they are, the chimneys run up through the house, acting as flues; by which means, it is really made the warmest residence imaginable: so much has good sense been exercised in making the *useful* the first object, the *beautiful* the second, which has not been always attended to in houses of such consequence.

As for the town of Inverary, it is hardly worth notice, being a small, inconsiderable fishing place, and chiefly dependant upon the castle, from which it is removed about half a mile. It is situated on a point of land that runs into the loch, and consists of about two hundred houses, many of which, though small, are neatly built. The people are chiefly employed in fishing, which sometimes employs near one thousand people. Although the herring be a whimsical as well as migrating animal, I must here contradict the report of the herrings having, in a great measure, forsaken Loch Fine, and gone to other parts of the Scottish coast. About three miles from Inverary, there is a woollen manufactory for cloth and carpets. The person who established it failed, but the business is now conducted by another man, who has met with some success. Coals are nearly as dear here as in London, on account of the additional duty, which is a most impolitic imposition, and operates greatly against all manufactures. The price of labour at Inverary is from ten-pence to one shilling a day. On the whole, the general appearance of the castle, town, and environs of Inverary is such as becom the

head of a great clan, in a strong and mountainous country, who, without losing sight of the origin of his family, in rude and warlike times, adopts the improvements of the present period.

October 11.—Sunday, cold and very rainy.

In consequence of the weather, and of the hooping-cough reigning in the vicinity of the castle, we did not go to church, which, I understand, is always most scrupulously attended.

October 12.—Day fine. Lord Lorn, a very keen shot, politely attended me to the moors, in order to show me some black-game; and, his lordship being desirous to see my pointers out, we took them. I think I never saw any ground better calculated for black-game: we had several points; but the birds made to the full as good use of their optics as we did, and took care not to be led into any danger from our fire. At one point, though at a considerable distance, no less than eighteen black-cocks arose: we followed them to no purpose, though we found them twice.

We killed, however, three brace of a kind of water-fowl, called *muratts*, with which we had good sport. They dive immediately on the fire, and, being at great distances, are not easily killed.

Returned to dinner, in our way calling and taking a look at Mr. Gerrard's sketches.

This day finished my shooting in the Highlands, and, what is seldom found to be the case in schemes on so large a scale as this, every thing, in point of country, weather, game, and sport of every kind, far exceeded my most sanguine expectations.

The route, and all matters were now properly arranged for returning to Thornville; and Messrs. Crosly, Jonas, and Jack with three horses, hawks, dogs, guns, and baggage-waggons being sent forward, and Mr. Lawson, Mr. Kennion, and John attending me with five horses, after dinner we proceeded on our journey to Sir James Colhoun's, and left Mr. G. employed by his grace at the castle. The road from Inverary to Cairndow is excellent, winding on the verge of Loch Fine, is extremely pleasant, and by no means hilly.

THE COVELOPE OAK.



After leaving Cairndow to the right, we passed Arhenless, a temporary residence of Sir James Campbell: the road here becomes less agreeable.

We soon entered *Glen Crow*, where nature seems to have used her utmost efforts, in collecting as much rock and as little verdure as possible; for, except on the lower parts of the mountains, and in some narrow stripes, not a blade of grass appears. Saw very large herds of oxen and flocks of sheep, absolutely hanging, as it were, down the mountains, and at one time were hemmed in by a large drove, some of them going to Falkirk fair; which, from the conversation I had with one of the drovers, I found, consisted of about five thousand; the great prices they bore at the last market, having induced the Highlanders to send every beast that could be spared, or that was in any way marketable. Thus stopt by the cattle of the hills, and the road, which was mending, made it a very long drive to reach Tarbat.

To the right passed a very neat, pretty cottage, belonging to a Mr. Campbell, commanding a view up Loch Long, at the head of which stands the seat of the Laird of M'Farlane, which, with the church, a neat-built one, the minister's *manse*, and the laird's house, all having a dependant connection with each other, produces a very pretty effect.

At Tarbat stopped till my carriage came up, having made more dispatch on horseback, and, after adjusting myself, in order to go to Luss, proceeding along the banks of Loch Lomond, got in time to tea at Sir James Colhoun's; whom I found, with the colonel and major, his sons, rather expecting me.

As I passed on the road, it blew a hurricane, which afforded me an opportunity of admiring the dreadful magnificence of the lake, the waves ran mountains high, and, from fresh water waves breaking so much shorter than salt, they are infinitely more dangerous; I was also an eye witness of one of the curiosities said to be peculiar to this piece of water. These curiosities consist of, wave without wind—fish without fin—and a floating island.

When the wind blows, as for instance it did this day, most furiously from the east, there is an astonishing surf in front, but on either side, as well as in the bay, between Inestevenoch and the road, it was quite placid, and the

sun, reflecting the shade of the island, gave it, from the contrast, a very singular appearance.

Fish without fin, are a species of snake that have been seen swimming from island to island.

The floating-island is one that, lying very low, is liable to be flooded when the lake is high.

Loch Lomond is certainly the most beautiful of the Caledonian lakes, in whatever point of view it is taken. From Tarbat it presents an extensive serpentine, winding amidst lofty hills. On the north, barren, black, and rocky mountains, which darken with their shade that contracted part of the water. On the west side, the mountains are clothed, near the bottoms, with woods of oak, quite to the water's edge; while their summits, lofty, naked, and craggy, are answered on the opposite side with mountains, equally high, though less uneven, except where the immense Ben Lomond, piercing the very clouds, overtops the rest. The upper parts are black and barren, the lower display great marks, either of fertility or industry; for the yellow corn may be seen in contrast with the verdure of the groves intermixed with it.

Powings are taken here, not known elsewhere: they resemble the herring*.

Sir James Colhoun's house is placed in one of the finest situations imaginable. It has wood in abundance, which may be cut into ten thousand avenues; here I also saw some very fine oaks and plane trees. The house is modern, and excellently well built, both for convenience and use.

In the evening, taking leave of Sir James, I proceeded on a visit to Mr. Ruits, and driving but gently, had an opportunity, as I passed along the banks, by the assistance of a fine autumnal, or silver, moon, to admire the reflection of the wood on the islands, in the lake, then perfectly serene. This, added to the whistling of the teays of wild ducks, which we heard continually around us, produced a pleasing melancholy, that made me regret leaving this enchanting scene. Unexpectedly, I found myself at the bridge of Freume, a

* See Pennant's Zoology.

pretty, little rapid river, to which I have been obliged, as I think I have observed before, for several excellent days' fishing: it abounds at this season of the year with large trout and some salmon.

Sent forward my servant in the gig, with a card to Mr. and Mrs. Ruits, saying, that I intended myself the honour of passing the evening with them.

BELLE RETIRO.

October 12.—Day heavenly. Mr. Ruits has built a couple of well-imagined wings to his house, forming two most excellent rooms, a dining and a drawing room; from whence you see two very different views of the lake. In the one I feasted myself with admiring the yellow corn-fields on the edges, with the road winding between them, and the immense high hills above Luss, covered with young firs, which, when they have had a few more years' growth, must add great magnificence, not only to the house, but to the country round it. From the other, I saw Inchmond, with several vessels, great and small, sailing about, as if actually placed, with an intention to enrich this scene.

Barely asking my friends at Springfield how they had enjoyed the summer, I proceeded for Lord Glencairn's, by the Ferry of Erskine. Passed by the monument erected to his own memory by Dr. Smollet.

O! vanitas, vanitatis, et omnia vanitas!

Dumbarton rock looked quite beautiful, and several large vessels repairing on this side of it, together with a view of a very neat bridge over the Leven, made me wish I had had an opportunity of taking a sketch of it. The road, which I had found bad, as I passed between Dumbarton and the bridge, was now mending.

Following the Frith of Clyde, I came to a turnpike gate, the first I had seen for some hundreds of miles; and really so beautiful a road I never yet travelled; in four miles from Dumbarton, turned to the right, and ar-

rived at the ferry, which is a short one over the Clyde. The boat was very inconvenient, and ill adapted for either horses or carriages.

Passed Blantyre House, where my time would not permit me even to call, which I regretted; and, stopping at Cross Hill, found by Lord Glencairn's servant, that his lordship expected me to dinner.

Finlaster, the seat of this nobleman, is well situated, and the entrance to it, from Port Glasgow side, by an extensive, wide avenue, and chequered grove of different trees, through which are seen, very judiciously placed, several fantastical water-falls, is truly noble. Observed some capital trees; in particular, could not help admiring several fine thorns, and the largest chesnuts I remember to have met with, their foliage being now highly picturesque.

From the house, is a prospect down the Frith towards Port Glasgow, and another up the river, which commands a view of Dumbarton Castle.

The castle, with the rock on which it stands, has a most singular appearance. The latter rises to a stupendous height, seemingly from the sands, and is totally detached from every thing else, being bounded on one side by the Clyde, on the other by the Leven. On one of the summits are the remains of an old lighthouse, which some suppose to have been a Roman Pharos; on the other, the powder magazine. In the hollow between is a large well of water, fourteen feet deep. The sides of the rock are immense precipices, and often hang over, except on the side where the governor's house stands, which is defended by walls and a few cannon, and garrisoned by a few invalids. It was often used as a state prison, and was in former times deemed impregnable. Many fabulous accounts are given of its antiquity, which is certainly very remote; for Bede declares it to have been the best fortified city the Britons had during his day. It was originally called Alcluid, or Arcluid, (the place on the Clyde). But in after times it acquired the name of Dunbriton, from being the last place in these parts held by the Britons against the usurping Saxons; of which the modern appellation, Dunbarton, or Dumbarton, is evidently a corruption.



DUNBARTON ROCK & CASTLE.

Ed. by James H. Wallbridge

I found my worthy friend much recovered, and, with great concern, received a letter from Mr. A. B. collector of the customs of Port Glasgow; saying, that nothing but the state of illness which some part of his family laboured under could prevent him from seeing me.

Captain Fleming had come purposely to give me the meeting, and the family at Finlaston returned with him to Borochoan; I shot thither.

Partridges were not plenty, but I was fortunate, killing four brace.

October 13.—Day charming, but cold.

A friend of Captain Fleming's, a keen sportsman, wished much to see my dogs hunt, whose mode of education he was unacquainted with. We soon found some game, but in many fields the corn was not completely cut, and the birds sheltering themselves in it, we did not follow them, but the gentleman was much pleased with my pointers.

I regretted much that the season was now so far advanced, as to oblige me to curtail my visits as I passed, that I might be at home to receive the company I expected to hunt with me at Thornville.

Taking my pointers therefore with me, I shot towards Glasgow, and had tolerable sport. Dined at Mr. J. M'D's.

Returns, nine partridges.

I found that Mr. Ord's family were with their relation, Sir James Stewart; and, being very desirous to see people, from whom I had received so many civilities, I went there.

The views from Castle Milk, commanding the Clyde, and a prospect of Bothwell and the palace of Hamilton, are very fine.

October 14.—Day charming, but foggy.

Rose, as usual, very early, in order to examine the improvements made here since I left the place. I found the plantations in the most flourishing condition. The spruce-firs and larches thrive wonderfully, and trees in general seem to enjoy the soil, and will turn to good account. One of the most beautiful ash-trees I ever saw, rears its head far above the rest, disdaining its associates. After breakfast, notwithstanding the hospitable entreaties that were used with me to stay here a few days, I was obliged to pro-

ceed for Glasgow, shooting as I passed. The day was so close, the dogs could scarcely breathe, but they were more than fortunate; I got some shots, and arrived at Glasgow long before dinner.

Mr. Gerrard, who had come here a few days before me, was employed in completing his views. I paid my compliments to the professors, and took a walk about the college, indulging the recollection of the many pleasant days I had passed there, free from care and anxiety.

Returns, seven partridges.

Dined with Mr. O. and in the evening invited him, together with my worthy friends, Mr. D. and Mr. G. to sup with me at the inn. For one entire winter, the two latter gentlemen and myself sported a trio every Saturday. Talking over these, and other events, it struck twelve, when we wished it to have struck ten. Parted.

October 15.—Cold, but fair.

This day was fixed on to decide a match; my famous No. 2 against Mr. Baird's famous gun, that, some years since, challenged all England. Lord Eglinton, who was the challenger, was accepted for two hundred guineas by Lord Thanet, who was beat easy. I knew my piece to be an uncommon one, and thought myself confident; but, as the guns were shot by gentlemen unacquainted with their loading, I lost my first match, though mine proved, in the issue, very superior, by doing double the execution of the gun in question, when receiving her proper loading.

This bet being decided, I made a fresh one, my gun laying in, with the same shot, forty-two grains, Mr. Baird's nineteen. Another bet, for a rump and dozen, was made, (to be final, which proved so) with larger shot. No. 2, or Destruction, the name the party christened my gun, drove into a quarter of a sheet of gilt paper*, and through sixteen sheets twenty-seven grains; Mr. Baird's fourteen. Thus the victory was gained by No. 2, challenging any gun, three or four famous ones, at least esteemed so, were produced, but all proved good for nothing.

* Of brown, cut to the size of gilt paper.

The shot of No. 2 was a very astonishing one: she drove in thirty-seven grains; every shot went through fifteen quarter sheets of small brown paper, cut to the size of a quarter of a sheet of gilt, and exceedingly regular; and in three parts the shots came through so close, that they had the effect of small balls, but could be only ascertained as one shot.

Dined with a very large party at Mr. Marshall's, and passed the evening. Here we more than tasted a hogshead of wine, given to me by the Duke of Hamilton, in return for fox-hounds sent him; it proved excellent.

Having dispatched my business, proceeded for

BOTHWELL CASTLE,

wishing much to show Mr. Gerrard this noble piece of ancient magnificence.

It is a very fine ruin, and most happily situated; the river Clyde, broken into different large eddies, washing its base; and the hanging woods, in high colouring, gave us every advantage. We sent the carriage forward, intending, after having completed a general view of the castle, to go on to Hamilton.

Bothwell Castle is an ancient structure, exactly in the style, as well as corresponding in magnitude, to the Welch castles. The walls, a great part of which is still standing, were sixty feet high and fifteen thick. This enormous mass, in one part crushed its foundation, and rock and castle fell down together into the Clyde. The breach in the foundation was afterwards filled up, and the wall that had fallen, rebuilt.

The castle formed an oblong square, or internal quadrangle, with a round turret at each corner, three of which are still entire, but all the internal part is demolished. In the centre of the building stood the citadel or keep, which was the most inaccessible part of the castle. The windows were placed very high, the bottoms of them at least fifteen feet from the ground, and all of them looked into the square or area. The elevated situation of the windows, as well as their internal aspect towards the great court, were precautions, we may presume, against the arrows or other missile weapons which might be thrown into them by an enemy. On the same

principle we may account for the elevated position, as well as the narrowness of the windows, in all other ancient edifices.

On the opposite side of the river are to be seen, the remains of the beautiful Castle of Blantyre, formerly a monastery, belonging to a nobleman of that title. Between this monastery and Bothwell Castle, there was a secret and subterraneous communication below the bed of the Clyde, so that the ancient Douglasses were secured by the architecture and the religion of the times, as well as the valour of their arms. Near this Mr. Douglass has lately built a very commodious, as well as elegant, house, in the modern style, on a site that commands a view of both the Clyde and the old castle.

The approach to Hamilton House is through a beautiful lawn, of above three miles, with a road, not only spacious but truly noble. It winds through the park, which is one of the finest I know.

The Duke of Hamilton, when we arrived, was not returned from shooting, in which he excels, being one of the best shots in Scotland. He is also a keen sportsman at every other amusement; but this country not being well adapted to fox-hunting, he has given up his hounds, and has paid great attention to his pointers and greyhounds, both of which are excellent.

While we were thus entertained, the duke returned, and had had good sport, having killed three brace of birds; but I found his grace agreed with me in opinion, that, after moor shooting, partridge has not the same charms.

After dinner, his pointers were brought in, and a brace of finer-looking dogs I never saw. The one is a cross from a fox-hound, full of bone and strength, and appeared a most capital moor-dog, but does not excel for partridge; the other, Pero, is not much better.

No man can have any species of dogs clever, without some pains, and in general they neglect them in Scotland. The duke, however, has a decided advantage, which would make a man a shooter *malgré lui*; as the island of *Arran*, which is his grace's property, is probably the best shooting-place in the world. Black-game, grouse, and snipes are not only found there in abundance, but, from some unaccountable cause, are less shy than elsewhere. Deer, both fallow and red, are likewise tolerably numerous. Woodcocks

around Hamilton are also plentiful in the season; and fish of all kinds swarm, not only at Arran, but are plentiful in the Clyde and Avon. These temptations would make any man a sportsman.

October 16.—Day calm and pleasant, but rather heavy.

After breakfast, the duke showed me his stud. The accommodation of paddocks, in a good soil, well wooded and better watered, makes this place more calculated for breeding than Ardrossan, or any other place I have seen north of the Tweed. His brood mares are full of bone, and of the best blood in England. I saw a good yearling likewise.

We rode upon a course made in the centre of the park. This race-ground is most beautifully situated, and the river Clyde flanking and overlooking it, makes cording absolutely unnecessary; and, when the opposite banks are crowded with peasants, which they undoubtedly are at the time of the races, lately instituted by his grace, the scene must be highly pleasing.

The gamekeeper having found some hares as we rode about the park, which is full thirteen miles in extent, we had some pretty courses, and were generally successful.

Chatel Herault is a very whimsical building, in the form of a banqueting house, and, formerly used as a dog-kennel, commanding two very beautiful but very different views. The front, which is to the north-east, overlooks Clydesdale and the river; a number of yellow corn-fields; Glasgow, several gentlemen's seats; the hills of Campsee, Dumbarton Rock, and the distant Ben Lomond, whose magnificence is more apparent here than nearer. From the back front, you contemplate the romantic, finely-variegated vale of Avon, through which runs the river. So rich an assemblage of tints I think I never yet saw, and here and there, the great rocks and ruins of a castle, overgrown with ivy, break upon the sight, and make the scene truly luxuriant.

On the borders of the Avon runs a very handsome, verdant coach-road, with neatly-kept hedges, chequered with flowering shrubs, and immense quantities of sweet-briar, which absolutely perfume the air.

This ride is solely indebted to the exquisite taste and all-fostering hand of the duchess.

After contemplating these natural beauties, we saw some woods, superior to any in the Highlands, from their additional variety of tints. These trees were immensely fine, chiefly oak, and wonderfully large: some of them I had the curiosity to measure, and found one, that lay within my view, twenty-one feet some inches in circumference. Many still larger might have been found, had there been any necessity to have looked for them.

In short, it is impossible to describe all the different views we had in following the enchanting vale of Avon, the rides along the banks of whose river alone are, at least, six or seven miles. From the length of our ramble, it was late before we returned to the palace.

In the evening amused ourselves in the billiard room, which was better lighted up to my taste than any I had ever seen: it is neatly furnished with many capital portraits, amongst which is one said to be that of the unfortunate David Rizzio.

October 17.—Day foggy and close. Having made some trifling bet with her grace, that the duke or myself brought in a woodcock, we tried for several hours, some having been seen the day before, but without success. The duke shot a few partridges; I unfortunately, at my second shot, found my hammer broke, which put an end to my sport. The gun lent me was a sorry one, very innocent indeed; at a greater distance than thirty yards, I found it in vain to shoot. I killed some hares and one partridge.

The gamekeeper, on beating the centre of the last wood, as we were returning home, flushed a cock, which, without waiting to give his grace or me a shot, he killed. I think I have observed before, if I did not, I take the liberty of doing it now; that the sporting servants all over Scotland are too much on a footing with their masters; it is the custom of the country.

To allow a servant to sport with the master, on any pretence, except where the master is a miserable performer, which can alone make it admissible, amounts not only to the appearance, but in fact is poaching.

Had my gamekeeper, in the above instance, shot the first woodcock seen, when beating for his grace and me at Thornville, he would never have shot at another as my servant.

Returns; the Duke of Hamilton, five partridges, one hare; Colonel Thornton, three partridges, two hares; gamekeeper, one woodcock.

On our return I took a walk in the garden, and found peaches and nectarines in plenty; some of them I pulled, and thought them, considering the inclement season, tolerably well flavoured.

Apples, pears, and other fruits, according to their season, thrive here. The following fruits are excellent, and are known only in Scotland: namely, that fine-flavoured pear, called the moor-fowl egg; the Auchan and Leadington apples; geens, a small wild cherry, not unlike our macaroons, grow universally over the whole high and low lands.

October 18.—Day delightful, but close.

A brace of woodcocks had been seen in the park; the duke sallied forth with me in search of them, and beat one of the most likely woods, in which we found plenty of hares, but no woodcocks.

Pheasants are scarce, but we saw some. That they will ever increase to any quantity, may be desirable, but is not reasonable to expect. It has astonished me frequently in life, to observe men, of good sense, fighting against the nature of the soil, climate, &c. in many particulars, besides the introduction of game. The soil of this county, or a situation in any part of Scotland, by no means agrees with pheasants. Game they have sufficient, if they would be satisfied with what nature has ordained. As to pheasants, I have known Hamilton since a boy, and I will venture to affirm, with all the care and anxiety which has been taken, they have not increased one in five. This ought to discourage the keenest breeder.

His grace killed six partridges, and one hare; Colonel Thornton, one partridge, and four hares.

October 19.—Morning charming.

Having made an early breakfast, we set out for Cora-Lyn and Lanerk. The road for the first seven miles is good, and the country bears the marks

of fecundity ; but, advancing, it changes its appearance ; and from thence to Stonebyiers, is a stubborn, cold clay, and more barren than any country we had yet passed, the road being both hilly and bad.

At Stonebyiers, three miles from Lanerk, the scene is again quite altered ; the house belonging to Mr. Weer is finely situated in a pleasant vale, well-wooded and watered ; and, the ride from thence to Stonebyiers Lyn, where the traveller should turn off, continues to be equally interesting.

There is some difficulty in getting a good view of the delightful water-fall, at this place ; where, I am well informed, salmon are frequently seen distinctly, leaping in great numbers, and falling back, exhausted with attempting in vain to surmount it.

In order to see Cora-Lyn, you cross the Bridge of Clyde, about a mile and a half higher. It is very handsome ; but I rather thought disfigured by a kind of arch thrown across for passengers.

Our guide informed us that there was great abundance of foxes, wild-cats, &c. and brocks*, an animal Mr. G. had never heard of. I pretended to be as ignorant as he ; and to be sure, the fellow's description was such as no man could have understood ; for, desirous of increasing Mr. G.'s *real*, and my *pretended*, curiosity, he increased the magnitude of his animal to that of a calf, and had we even been inclined to believe it, the size of an ox, I make no doubt but he would have sworn to it.

Mr. G. wished much to have seen a specimen, even a skin would have satisfied him. I recommended him to make my compliments to their graces, as he was to return to Hamilton, thanking them for their civilities, and to beg of them, in my name, to order, at any rate, a brock to be procured. As he would have an opportunity of seeing the water-falls hereafter to every advantage.

Having been engaged by both their graces, to make some studies of animals, &c. we lost no time, but got to Lanerk, where our horses being re-

* A badger, called, universally over Scotland, brocks or peats, which is also one of the names used north of Trent.

freshed, I proceeded on my journey. Mr. G. not having completed his plan, was to return and follow me in a day or two.

The road from hence to Edinburgh, by Lanerk, for want of guide posts, is rather difficult to find, and by no means answered the description given of it, being very stony and hilly; and not near so good as the Kirk of Shotts' road; nor are the inns better, if I may be allowed to judge by their external appearance, for I proceeded directly for Edinburgh.

The country has in general a very cold aspect, nor did I see any gentlemen's seats till we came within five miles of Edinburgh, except two; that of Sir John Lochart Ross, which lies about three miles from Lanerk to the right, and Mr. Fullarton's about two miles farther, in the same direction; both of them sheltered with very extensive plantations, in a thriving state.

The lands on each side of the road are good sheep pastures.

As I passed, we saw a tribe of gentry, whom I took to be smugglers, and, being in good spirits, I gave them to understand, that some custom-house officers were behind, in search of them. They thanked me for my hint, and availed themselves of it, by leaving the road instantly, which confirmed my suspicions, and I thought they unloaded their goods on the moors; but the day turning out foggy, we soon lost sight of them.

Within five miles of Edinburgh stands a house, in as romantic a glen as any in the Highlands; a very singular residence so near the metropolis.

EDINBURGH.

We got to Dun's hotel, about six in the evening, and sat down to a comfortable dinner; and here I again met with our English travellers.

Having adjusted my business, I called on my friend, Sir J. G. who did me the favour to introduce me to the Highland Society, then assembled, and finally determining the merits of the different candidates for the bagpipe. They politely ordered the fortunate candidate, M'Gregor, to play the *Glass-fiel*, which he did in a very masterly style. The room was much too small for any instrument; judge then what it must have been for the great High-

land pipes, adapted to the very large halls of ancient castles, where the chief summoned all his untamed clan, or played on at a very considerable distance from the auditors, as I have heard it with the best effect in the adjacent parts of a castle, and announcing dinner; but even with this manifest inconvenience, I thought it not unpleasant. The Northumberland, or Irish pipe, when touched by that great master, Mr. Courtney, though not going higher than an octave, in plaintive, the time and character of old English music, Scotch and Irish reels, I prefer to any other instrument, as I also do that species of music. The present connoisseurs admire lessons, and look down with ineffable contempt on the vulgarity, as they are pleased to term it, of such Gothic taste.

The present style of music is a constant critical attention to labour, art, and trick; the anxiety and *terror* that the performer seems to labour under, destroys that exquisite satisfaction that I admire in more simple compositions.

Another inconveniency arises, which is, that the present masters are so totally absorbed, that there is no end of their concertos, which alone makes them disgusting to nine-tenths of their audience.

Mr. Courtney, added to the usual stops, combines the mellowness of the organ, the tender, soft, plaintive, notes of the lute, with the other cheering tones of this sonorous instrument; and his pieces are so formed as to catch the passions of every individual.

I frequently have heard gentlemen exclaim against his introduction into a room where conviviality reigned, conceiving his instrument not unsimilar to the bagpipe, so frequently heard, attendant upon the poor bear*; not

* Having mentioned a bear, it reminds me of a singular circumstance that happened in my neighbourhood. A man, who gained a livelihood by tormenting this animal, in making him dance, &c. &c. travelling between the villages of Newton and Linton on Ouse, in Yorkshire, the bear, tired, poor devil, or possibly obstinate, as I understand they sometimes are to a degree, would not cross a bank. The bear-leader made use of every effort his senses could suggest, and the day being uncommonly warm, he soon became very irascible; fearing he should not be in time for the village feast, which was his market, and prevailed on a peasant, who was harrowing in the next field, to

the more relished by those, whose horses have been almost terrified to death, by unexpectedly meeting in the street with this animal, and his no-less-savage attendants.

A party of gentlemen honoured me with their company, and the evening coming quick upon us, I was prevented supping with the English travellers at Black Shiels, to which place they were gone; but I sent on my carriage, with an apology by the servants.

Before I left Edinburgh, I sent to the ingenious Mr. M'Lean, in order to bespeak two fishing-rods, on a construction better calculated, than any of my former, for Highland sports; as containing, in the two rods, joints to add and diminish, and different tops, so as to form a rod for any purpose what-

assist him, which he did most willingly; but, after many fruitless attempts of both, Bruin still remained victor.

The same causes that originally acted on the bear-leader, in a similar degree, acted on the passions of the rustic; at last he bethought himself of taking his two horses and harness from the harrow, and fastening them abreast to the bear's chain, who was sullenly fixed on the opposite side.

At a sharp exertion, occasioned by whips well applied, this additional force, to the nearly-exhausted bear, brought him precipitately over the bank, and he demonstrated his disgust at such unusual treatment, by a dreadful roar, which so intimidated the horses, that, on the first sight and hoarse notes of their opponent, they flew over hedge and ditch, and ran directly through the village: the bear, sometimes thrown by the velocity on their backs, and tossed about, caught hold of them where he could with his claws and feet. The country people assembled, unable to account for the phenomenon, on advancing, were full as much alarmed as either the horses or bear; they cleared the way: the apple-stalls, gingerbread shops, &c. were thrown into confusion, and no one volunteering the stopping such a party, they ran till, almost exhausted and mad, they reached their stable, which they forced open, and the end of the catastrophe was, that the bear languished and soon died, and the horses, though they recovered after some time, would never admit any kind of harness, nor even almost any living thing to come near them, and were thereby rendered useless for ever.

Accidents of a more fatal nature have happened, and are liable to happen, every day in great cities, especially in the streets of London, from suffering the owners of bears, camels, and other strange animals, to parade them; for horses are very apt to take fright when they come suddenly upon them: and in summer time, or in frosty weather, when the pavement is glassy, the horseman, or the driver of a carriage, may be thrown, and killed on the spot. I have known very fine horses tremble, and even drop down through fear, on seeing these animals. Surely it would become the humanity, as it is the duty, of all magistrates, to suppress this pernicious practice, by which foreigners chiefly, and other idle vagrants, gain a livelihood, who might be otherways usefully employed for the benefit of the community.

ever, to be packed in a case, so light, but so strong, that no accident could possibly happen to them, even should a carriage go over it.

One of Dun's hotels, for he superintends two or three, which I had formerly been in, being occupied, I was obliged to go to another, also a very good one; and, considering the elegance of the lodgings, and the great rent he stands at, the charge was not exorbitant: to live well and cheap is impossible in any country I have ever yet been in. In the course of the evening Mr. Gerrard arrived, and joined the party.

October 20.—We rose very early, and set forward: at Dalkeith we lamented passing by that elegant mansion of the Duke of Buccleugh, where, having been invited by his Grace of Hamilton, I should have paid my compliments, had I not been so much pressed for time, as to be obliged to postpone that honour to a future opportunity.

The grass lands, in the vicinity of Edinburgh, have decreased in value within these ten years. The duke lately assured me, that land, for which he had received three guineas an acre, within seven miles of Edinburgh, now produced only two. Lord Haddington afterwards mentioned a similar circumstance; this decrease arising not from the poverty of the country, but from there being many more inclosures, consequently the demand has proportionably diminished. Passed also a very snug retreat of the very respectable Baron Norton, who I found was just gone to Grantly, in Yorkshire, and got up to our English travellers, at Black Shiels, by breakfast, and, as the day was fine, I sent on my carriage, and we rode together towards Kelso. From these gentlemen I received an account of what they had seen since we parted at Inverness.

The road to Kelso I found much improved, but there are still no inns on it at which the traveller can take any refreshment with comfort.

On the left stands Mr. Baillie's house, a very large pile of building, covered to the north by extensive plantations, which, in my opinion, are too much in the old style, and too regular. Within three miles of Kelso the road becomes very bad.

The bleak appearance of the country, through which we had passed,

served to heighten the charms of Kelso, of which we had now a most charming view. Its environs are extremely fine; the lands consist of gentle risings, inclosed with hedges, and very fertile. They have much reason to boast of their prospects. From the Chalk Heugh is a fine view of the forks of the rivers, Roxburgh Hill, and, at a distance, Fleurs; and from Pinnacle Hill is seen a vast extent of country, highly cultivated, and watered with long reaches of the Tweed, well wooded on each margin. The borderers venture on cultivation much earlier than those on the west or east, and have made great progress in every species of rural economy. Turnips and cab-bages, for the use of cattle, cover many large tracks, and potatoes appear in vast fields.

A few miles up the river stands all that remains of the celebrated abbey of Melrose, renowned for extent of revenue, and the magnificence and charming symmetry of the edifice: and, as we had still the day before us, determined to turn out of our way, in order to observe it. The valley, in which Melrose is situated, well accords with the beauty of that elegant and delicate ruin; it is seated near the Tweed, and shaded with woods, above whose summits soar the venerable ruins. Here the natives inherit, and still retain, all the pastoral softness of Caledonian manners; and lasses, attired in the primitive dress, are seen sitting on the ruins of the venerable pile, chanting in nature's sweetness the songs of Scotland.

This abbey was founded in 1136, by David I. who is said to have peopled it with Cisterians brought from Rivaulx abbey, in Yorkshire. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was, like many of the religious houses, destroyed, in a great measure, at the Reformation, for the purpose of using the materials in building. Enough, however, is still left to afford an idea of the beauty and elegance of this venerable ruin: particularly a part of the cloister walls elegantly carved, and the greater part of the church. The latter is at present used for divine service, though much of it is uncovered; but every part does great honour to the architect.

The side of the west end of the church, which remains standing, is divided into five chapels, once probably belonging to private families; for,

(besides Alexander II. who lay below the great altar), it was the place of interment of the Douglasses, and other potent chieftains.

The south side, and the east window, are extremely elegant, the windows being lofty, sharp-pointed, and filled with light, elegant tracery. A window, at the north-end of the transept, is equally beautiful, but of a different pattern, forming a rich quatre-foil. In fact, the whole work of the outside is of superlative delicacy; and, what remains of the inside, though delapidated, is no less to be admired, especially the clustered columns, which support part of the nave, whose capitals are adorned with a fine sharp foliage of vine leaves and grapes. Much of this church was defaced by the stupid zeal of the Covenanters during the Oliverian period.

Cross the Tweed, and proceed on our journey.

It is customary for the gentlemen, who live near the Tweed, to entertain their neighbours with a fête champêtre, which they call giving "*a kettle of fish*." Tents or marquees are pitched near the flowery banks of the river, on some grassy plain: a fire is kindled, and live salmon thrown into boiling kettles. The fish, thus prepared, is very firm, and accounted a most delicious food. Every thing in season is added to furnish a luxurious cold dinner; and wine, music, and dancing on the green, steal one day from the plodding cares, or more unsupportable languor of mortals. The simple rustics around are admitted, in due place and order, to this rural banquet, and all nature wears the countenance of joy and gladness. Where the Tweed forms the boundary between England and Scotland, the English gentlemen and ladies cross the river in boats, to attend the annual feast of their Scottish neighbours; and the Scottish ladies and gentlemen, in like manner, pay due respect, on similar occasions, to their neighbours in England. How different this humane and happy intercourse from the meeting of the Scots and English in former times, whether accidental, or for the express purpose of settling disputes.

KELSO.

Arrive at the inn. A charming scene of confusion; cooks, waiters, servants, and ladies running against each other, being the time of the annual meeting at Kelso races. The company is composed of the gentlemen of the turf on both sides the Tweed, with their families and friends, and also the members of the Caledonian Hunt, with some few of the English borderers. Dinner was just ready, and we had scarcely time to pull off our boots, which is indispensibly necessary, ladies dining at the ordinary; this ceremony, however inconvenient, as from experience we found it in our situation, must be complied with, though the ladies dine in habits, in which case, in my opinion, boots are in character.

The meeting, we were informed, was not so full as in former years; but I must confess, I thought there was a great number of people crowded together, and those of the first fashion.

My fellow travellers, having letters to Sir W. D. were introduced by him to the stewards.

In the morning the fox-hounds and beagles hunt alternately; there is also a concert and races: the first, however, that is, the concert, was but thinly attended, and, at the latter, there was no sport. Dinner is on table at four o'clock, and, fortunately, in one point of view, there is only one large room, which is really a very excellent one. From this circumstance, the company are obliged, contrary to the inclinations of many, to rise sooner than they would wish, which keeps up great decency during the evening. After the ladies have retired, some of the gentlemen form separate parties, others jointly, with the ladies, to pass the evening; so that they are seldom in bed till four or five in the morning, which makes some confusion.

The stewards, through whose means *only* any strangers can be introduced to the balls, *should not dance*, at least, as little as possible, or, dancing, should appoint some proper person to act as master of the ceremonies, otherwise, gentlemen, who are strangers, feel themselves more un-

comfortable here than in any other public place in Europe; and this was the case with our English travellers, who, finding themselves very much *neglected*, notwithstanding my entreating them to stay a day or two longer, as they had originally intended to pass a fortnight here, they could not be prevailed on to try what another day might produce, but went off the next morning, reprobating the meeting.

October 21.—Day charming; but too clear for sport. Scent is not easily accounted for, at least my ideas of it cannot be given in a few lines: shall possibly attempt to point out some means of ascertaining it hereafter. Sir Alexander Don, with a politeness peculiar to himself, offered me his hunters to see the harriers out, and every other mark of genuine civility; but I rather preferred attending his Grace of Buccleugh and Lord Haddington to see Fleurs, the seat of the Duke of Roxburgh, which is a pleasant walk from the town. Mr. Gerrard dedicated the day to correcting his views.

The approach to the house is not finished; when complete, it will be very handsome.

The house itself is an old one modernised, and more has been made of it than of any I have seen altered. The rooms are numerous, but, in general, rather small: there is a neatness to a degree, free from gaudiness and show, which is very pleasing. The offices, with the kitchen, &c. are not to be excelled for comfort, probably, in the whole island. The view to the south, commanding part of the town of Kelso, with the abbey, the bridge, and country beyond, with the river Tweed and Tiviot uniting, forms a desirable landscape.

Having passed a very agreeable forenoon, we returned, prepared for dinner, and the races; when I was requested by my friends, Messrs. Hamilton and Baird, to see their fox-hounds in kennel; a very neat, small hound they were, and held in high estimation. Was happy to find that some draughts of the Conqueror's blood did not disgrace their ancestor*.

* The ancestor of Colonel Thorton's pack.

This day's race afforded no sport, and none being expected, no attention was paid to it.

In the evening, the gentlemen of the Caledonian hunt took the lead, and gave a very handsome ball, when the company dressed more than at the other. Having become better acquainted with the ladies, I gave myself little concern about the master of the ceremonies, and consequently asked such partners as I wished to dance with. I observed that the ladies, as well as the gentlemen, were uncommon good dancers; Lord M——, in particular, dances probably better than any man in England.

After the ladies retired, which they did not do till four o'clock, the gentlemen, in general, formed a party to drink their healths; the consequences of which I was not unacquainted with, and, therefore, the party to which I belonged, chiefly English, withdrew; and, in order that Mr. Gerrard and myself might proceed on our journey, the next day, in which we were promised the company of some English gentlemen, who were going the same road, we got to bed as fast as possible.

October 22.—Day cloudy, and likely for rain. Colonel R. Mr. H. Mr. G. and myself got up by eight, and proceeded; and found, from the stupidity of the waiters, ringing of bells, &c. that the party, which had sat down when the ball broke up, was still drinking, and meant to sit till the hounds went out.

This meeting, I found from the gentlemen who had been there during the week, is the most expensive of any ever heard of. The English steward, in particular, being obliged to pay ten guineas for his room, though he was only there five nights; nor were our expences proportionably less.

Great regulations might be made about dancing, which would tend to make the assembly more acceptable to strangers: indeed, throughout Scotland, there is a strange custom, which is very disgusting to an Englishman. Though a lady is engaged as a partner for the evening, she conceives herself entitled to jump up and dance a reel with any indifferent person, with-

out saying a syllable to her partner. Many disagreeable situations I have seen gentlemen thrown into, from not knowing this custom, which, though established, I cannot think well bred.

Kelso is remarkable in history for the coronation of James III. as the scene where a truce was concluded between the two kingdoms, and for being formerly burnt and plundered by the English; but it is best known for its celebrated abbey, which was a vast pile, and, to judge by the remains, of venerable magnificence. It was founded by David I. king of Scotland, during his brother Alexander's reign. David had brought from Tirone, in France, certain monks, of a reformed order, lately founded by Bernard d'Abbeville, in high reputation for severity and sanctity, and settled them in an abbey at Selkirk; assigning them an ample provision of lands and revenues, and conferring on the abbot the dignity of his chaplain. These monks, soon after his accession to the throne, by the advice of John, bishop of Glasgow, and his religious nobles, he removed to Roxburgh, a situation far more pleasant and commodious; and, on the second of May, 1128, he founded for them a magnificent church at Kelso, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangelist. He made also great additions to the former endowments of this monastery, and procured for it, from the bishop of St. Andrew's, within whose diocese Kelso then lay, (though, afterwards, it belonged to the see of Glasgow,) an ample grant of immunity from tolls and services, with leave to the abbot and monks to receive ordination, and the other sacraments of the church, from any bishop they pleased in Scotia or Cambria.

This abbot was allowed to wear a mitre and pontifical robes, to be exempted from episcopal jurisdiction, and permitted to be present at all general councils. The steeple of the ancient church, which is a vast tower, ornamented with false, round arches, intersecting each other, is the principal part of the ruin now remaining, and has a very romantic effect, combined with the other scenery of this charming spot. Part of it is used as the parish church.



KELLS ABBEY.



Kelso contains between two and three thousand inhabitants, and, the town itself, though small, is well built.

Having rode with Colonel R. about ten miles, he took the road for Jedburgh, and I that of Hawick, unable to accept of his invitation to accompany him home, at least on this occasion. During the last ten miles it rained very severely. We continued our ride on the verge of the river Tiviot, whose banks are agreeably clothed with copse wood, and some gentlemen's seats, amongst which are those of the Marquis of Lothian and Sir J. Scott. But what I most admired, nearly from Hawick, where we breakfasted, to Langholm, was the uncommon comfortable appearance of the farm-houses, testifying the generosity of the noble landlord, his Grace of Buccleugh, whose estate runs for about seventeen miles on each side of the road. This road displays a succession of verdant hills, most excellent sheep-pastures: though unfortunately destitute of wood, which would be not only useful, but ornamental, and in fact every thing which can delight the eye.

Before we reached Langholm, we had several smart sleet showers, which powdered the tops of the mountains, but dissolved in the vale, and made me wish myself by our fire-side for the winter.

It seems that the towns and villages, on the borders of Scotland, were much more populous in former times than at present. In the reign of James VI. or a little before the Union, it is said that this county could send out fifteen thousand fighting men, at present it could not send three thousand. The town and parish of Jedburgh, for instance, as appears by the parish register, contained, at the beginning of the present century, from eight to ten thousand souls. Their population now is not a third of that number. The account given of this difference seems just. Plundering in those times was the trade of the borderers, which, of course occasioned a multitude of inhabitants; for, during the period of one hundred years, that intervened between the union of the crowns and that of the parliaments of England and Scotland, there was a double smuggling of English articles into Scotland,

and of Scotch articles into England. This smuggling trade nourished on the borders a degree of wealth and population that has not since that period been nearly equalled; and, to show the intimate connection between the monied and landed interest, the price of land, and the rent of farms in the parish of Jedburgh, and other places near the English border, was almost as high as it is at present. At this time there was a great deal of English wool carried to the Port of Leith, and thence exported to other countries. The local disadvantages that have arisen from the Union to the borders, are nobly compensated, by the general benefits that have been derived from that great measure to both the Scotch and the English nations.

LANGHOLM.

The entrance to this town is beautiful. Slate and stone abound, which gives great opportunity for making the buildings elegant; and the whole town, by no means a small one, and the duke's property, is regularly finished, and has a charming appearance. When we came to the inn, which is a small, but clean one, I found an officer there of my acquaintance, Mr. N. Sykes, of the Third, or King's Own, and who had so handsomely sold me my incomparable black mare. This was an unexpected pleasure to us: he had heard of me before my arrival; had ordered an excellent dinner, and we spent the evening very comfortably. I tried, in the course of the evening, to induce him to go with me to see Sir James Graham; some expectation of a military order, however, prevented it.

The town of Langholm lies in a small plain, with the entrance of three dales, and as many rivers, from which they take their names, near it, namely, Wachopdale, Eusdale, and Eskdale; the latter extends thirty or forty miles in length; the sides, for a considerable distance, bounded by hills of smooth and verdant grass, on which numbers of sheep feed, and are in fact the great staple of the country. For the encouraging of improvements in the breed of this useful animal, premiums are given; and such a considerable traffic is carried on, chiefly for the wool, that it is said, from

twenty to thirty-six thousand lambs are sold in the several fairs that were held at Langholm in the year. To this we may add the great profit made of the wool sent into England for our coarser manufactures. Of the sheep themselves sent into the south, and even of the cheese and butter made of the milk of the ewes,

October 23.—In the night there had been a very sharp frost, and the street was covered with ice; my friend rode with me part of the way, and really a charming ride it is for ten miles. Mr. Scott's house, adjoining to the bridge of Cannonby to the left, as we passed, is happily situated.

Crossed the river Esk, which is full of salmon, over the ford near the mill, and came into England; rode on to Sir J. Graham's, a house, charmingly well placed, in the centre of excellent pastures and thriving plantations. The building is not modern, but has a comfortable appearance; the view from the house of the Esk is broken by plantations, so as only just to see enough, and no more, of the whole country, which is, for many miles around it, by far the best landed estate, surrounding a house, of any in Britain.

The inside is not inferior to its external appearance; and if the owner inherit the hospitality of his relation, Sir B. Graham, this house will not be found cold in any weather.

After having seen the curiosities, and meaning on a future occasion to see the owner, and every interesting object to more advantage than we could do in the flying way we were travelling from Gretna Green (which I had seen some years since, and meant to see also more fully again) we hastened forwards.

Crossed the new bridge, a very handsome one, though the stone is too red and glaring.

Some years since, as I was passing over the old bridge, I saw several people very oddly employed; giving my horse to my servant, I went to see what they were about, and found they were hunting salmon; which was done in the following manner: the river was uncommonly low, the salmon in consequence flew to the deeps, and sheltered themselves under the great stones, from whence they were dislodged by men, who, having driven them

about, they made a run across a shallow for another deep, and people were placed there with large Newfoundland dogs, who, with great facility took them: I saw at least a dozen which were taken in this way.

Passed through Longtown, the inn a neat one, but went on, hoping to have some company to dine with me at Carlisle; the ride to it is very indifferent.

CARLISLE.

The view of the castle, on entering the city, is fine; the town is large, the upper street wide and well paved, and the Bush inn a very comfortable one, at least we found it so.

Mr. P. Brown, who dined and passed the evening with me, advised me to alter my intended route, and go by Wigton, which advice I determined to follow. The claret we found excellent, but the stock small.

October 24.—Morning, a very sharp frost; indeed I never knew one so severe at this time of the year, which prevented my making many observations on the town, though it well deserves, from its antiquity and other circumstances, to be noticed by the traveller.

It is surrounded by a wall, thirty feet high, which is going fast to decay. The castle stands at the north end, and, though very well when viewed at a distance, I found, on examination, the rudest heap of stones ever piled together by the industry of men. There are four old invalids who take care of the ammunition kept in it, of which there is a considerable quantity, and five hundred stand of arms. On the walls are mounted thirty guns, from six to twenty-four pounders, and, among these, the guns with which the town was reduced, in the year 1745, by the Duke of Cumberland. The ditch around the castle is a filthy stagnated pool; and this character of filthiness is equally applicable to the walks around the city walls and the general avenues. Beyond the old citadel or castle, and the walls and moat, by which it is separated from the town, is a declining bank, on which there is a row of trees, planted by the hands of the unfortunate Mary, queen of

Scots, when a prisoner in Carlisle. There are many good houses in this town, though, in general, it is very ill built, and, as before observed, excessively dirty, from the circumstance of its being surrounded with a wall, and having only a few outlets. Over the river, which is pretty large, are thrown two very elegant bridges.

The cathedral, which consists merely of the choir and transepts of the old church, is built of a stone, in colour resembling brick-dust, which has but an ill effect. Its architecture, in general, is the later species of the pointed order, light and extremely elegant; but other parts appear of a much earlier date. The eastern window may vie with that in any church for its beautiful shape, and the delicacy of its fine ramifications. The western end is altogether as deformed, and exhibits the ravages and violence it has undergone.

The inside is chiefly remarkable for some singular legendary paintings, of remote antiquity, and extremely well preserved, each of which has an uncouth rhyming distich over it, written in the old black letter. These paintings are certainly curious, though many of the subjects are hideous, as they show what progress our ancestors had made in the art of design.

A curious monumental brass plate, to the memory of Bishop Robinson, containing his effigy kneeling, and surrounded by a great number of emblematical devices, is well worthy notice, as are the elegant stalls of the choir and the bishop's throne.

Near the cathedral there is a very modern church, which looks on the outside more like a ball-room than a place of worship.

The wind continued frosty during the day; but the sun, fortunately for us, shone most powerfully. Reached Wigton, after an uninteresting ride of ten miles, on a bad road.

Wigton is a small, wretched town, the inn not extraordinary: here I heard there were some famous pointers. I looked at a brace, and tried them on my road to Ouse Bridge, but did not approve* of them. From the three

* I scarcely ever found one pointer in fifty answer my expectations, either for shape, bone, or action, and the different modes of breaking, if they are not whelps, make them irreclaimable; but it

to the seven mile stone, I think I never saw a more cold, unpleasant country. Had Churchill said of this place,

Far as the eye could reach, &c.

it would have been at least as well applied as to any part of North Britain.

At the bridge there is a very neat, pleasant-looking inn, where we asked some directions for Ouse Bridge, and found that our landlord at Wigton had deceived himself in the distance, it being *fourteen* miles instead of *ten*: a horrid road! About the nine mile stone there is a view of the Frith of Solway, bounded by the bold shore of Annan, with the Scottish mountains in the distance. In the flat stands, apparent, Sir Gilbert Lawton's, a large white mansion, with some trees, the first I had seen for many miles. As we approached Ouse Bridge, we passed, to our right, Mrs. Spedding's, a neat house. The inn stands about half a mile out of the Keswick road, at the foot of the lake of Bassenthwaite. Here the scene becomes more interesting: the lake is pretty, but small; an epitome of those in the Highlands; and above it, to the east, rises Skiddaw, at this time covered with snow. Mr. Gerrard took a view of this lake, and, after a slight dinner, we proceeded for Keswick. The road very bad indeed.

I had not rode above a mile, when I came up to one of the most beautiful and innocent country girls I ever saw: I wished much to get into conversation with her; but found her as coy as handsome. Mr. Gerrard, perceiving her distress, left us and trotted on, when her coyness by degrees diminished, and we became more familiar. She permitted me to accompany her *five* miles, which added much to the pleasure I received in this ride, and gave me every intelligence I wished for, answering all my enquiries concerning the gentlemen's seats, &c. and I flatter myself we were

only costs a little time and a little money, at least to see such as are well recommended, and the greater opportunity the greater chance of success; if well-shaped dogs or bitches, they can be bred soon, and they may make game-keepers' dogs, any thing being good enough for people that do not shoot for pleasure.

so well pleased with each other, during this short intercourse, as to feel a mutual inconveniency in parting.

Trotted on briskly, and soon overtook Mr. Gerrard, when we made the best of our way to Keswick, as it grew late; and, by the glimmering of the moon, observed several neat gentlemen's houses, on both sides the road, as we approached the town; which merit the attention of the traveller who has leisure to visit them. Arrived at our inn at Keswick, which we found inferior to most of the Highland inns, a circumstance unpardonable in a country much more frequented.

KESWICK.

October 25.—Morning, a white frost.—The sun shone very warm, which made me decline going out so early as I could have wished, not chusing to be wet; but, in the course of the morning, took a view of the town, a small one, and of little note, except for its *lake*, though the buildings have a pretty appearance, from being covered with blue slates, so much superior to the glare of red tile; and the same pleasing effect is produced in the vale, from the farms and other houses being likewise covered with the same material. In the neighbourhood are manufactures of carpets, flannels, linsies, and yarn, the last sold to people from Cockermouth, who come for it every market day.

Being informed that a cabinet of natural curiosities, generally admired by strangers, was to be seen at Mr. Crossthwaite's, paid a visit to that gentleman. We found the commodore at home, for so he is called, from having been formerly a sea-faring man, and being appointed to superintend the annual regattas, held on the lake of Keswick. After passing some time with him, we took a walk to the side of the lake: it is named after the town; but is likewise called *Derwentwater*, from the ancient and noble family of that name, who had a castle on it, and a very considerable estate around it, which was forfeited to the crown in 1715, by the last

earl, who was concerned in the Scotch rebellion of that year against George I. and was beheaded on Towerhill for high treason*.

Derwentwater, certainly, for its extent, which is about three miles from north to south, is as charming a scene as can be imagined; but I am sorry to add, that the original simplicity, which, in my opinion, constitutes its chief beauty, is, in a great measure, destroyed by several inclegant houses and offices, as formal as numerous, on one of the islands: this circumstance displeased us so much that we returned, after having admired some points of view, equal, if not superior, to the stations, usually described by authors, as the only proper places from whence all strangers should see the beauties of the lakes. It may be necessary to point out stations to persons who are totally destitute of taste and judgment, but, in general, such directions are useless; for every person, of the least discernment, will readily judge for himself.

One of the beautiful islands on the Lake of Keswick, called *Vicar's Isle*, is distinguished, above the rest, for a valuable discovery, made some years since, of a mineral, called *black lead*, which is the produce of England solely, not being to be met with in any other part of Europe. It is found in great abundance on the shore of Vicar's Isle, incorporated with the sand and soil of the beach, from which it is afterwards separated for use: but in what manner it has been deposited there, whether by occasional floods, or by any natural cause, is uncertain; however, such was the importance of the discovery, that soon after it was made, it became an object of serious speculation, by what methods the whole lake might be drained, an idea being formed, that the profits, arising from such an acquisition, would be prodigious.

* When the act passed for restoring the forfeited estates, great expectations were formed by Lord Newburgh, the present heir to that unfortunate earl, that the property, belonging to the family, would be recovered, and claims were preferred for that purpose; but very strong reasons operated with government to exclude the forfeitures incurred in 1715; and, in particular, the appropriation of the estate at Keswick to the support of that noble and useful charity, Greenwich Hospital: besides which, in order to secure this revenue permanently to the above foundation, a considerable sum of money was given some years since to the family, to give up all claim whatever to this estate, that might hereafter arise from any collateral branch of it, found not to have incurred the forfeiture.

gious; and the following account, given by Dr. Campbell, in his Political Survey of Great Britain, of this useful mineral, will serve not only to illustrate the subject, but to account for laying aside the project.

“Black lead is what some have supposed, with very little reason, to be the *molybdena*, or *galena*, of Pliny; others style it *plumbago*. Our judicious Camden, in whose days it was a new thing, would not venture to give it a Latin name, but calls it a metallic earth, or hard, shining, stony substance, which, whether it was the *pingites* or *melanteria* of Dioscorides, or an ochre burnt to blackness, and so unknown to the ancients, he left others to enquire. Dr. Merret, from the use to which it was first applied, named it *ingrica fabrilis*. The learned Boyle is of opinion, that it has not any thing metallic in its nature; relying upon which, we have ventured to give it a place here. It is, indeed, a very singular substance; but, being common, and, consequently, well known, it would be needless to describe it. It is found, but in very trivial quantities in several mines here, and it may be also in other countries; but the sole mine in which it is found by itself is on Barrowdale, about six miles from Keswick, in the county of Cumberland. It is there called *wadd*, and those who are best acquainted with it, style it a black, pinguid, shining earth, which they suppose to be impregnated with lead and antimony. When it was first discovered, the people used it to mark their sheep: it was afterwards introduced into medicine, and taken in powder for the cure of the cholic and gravel; but it has since been applied to many other purposes. It serves to scour, clean, and give a lustre to wrought iron, and defends it from rust: it is applied in the varnishing crucibles, and other earthen vessels that are to be exposed to the fiercest fire, which end it answers effectually: but, after all, the great consumption of it is in two articles; in dying, to fix blues, so that they may never change their colour, and in pencils. The latter articles, being confined to this country, is so well known and so universally allowed, that they are from thence styled abroad, *crayons d'Angleterre*. It arises from hence, that this substance is little known to foreigners, the most learned of whom speak of it very confusedly, and with much uncertainty. These farther particulars

we may venture to affirm concerning it, without any danger of misleading our readers; that the mine before mentioned is private property, is opened but once in seven years, and the quantity known to be equal to the consumption in that space sold at once: and, as it is used without any preparation, it is more valuable than the ore of any metal found in this island. But there is nothing improbable, much less impossible, in supposing that other, and it may be *many* other uses, will be discovered in medicine, painting, dying, varnishing, or pottery, which would certainly contribute to raise the value of a mineral peculiar to this country, and, with the nature of which, though so long in our possession, we are still so imperfectly acquainted."

Bidding adieu to Keswick, we proceeded for Rydal Hall, sending a servant forward to inform my worthy friend, Sir Michael Fleming, that I should pass a few hours with him in my way to Ambleside.

The road becomes very hilly, immediately on leaving the town, and, at the one mile stone, we stopped to admire a most beautiful view, comprising the whole valley, and a circuit of twenty miles, bounded by stupendous mountains. About half a mile from this charming prospect, to the left, is the famous Druid Temple, so much celebrated by all our antiquaries; and of which so many descriptions have been published, that we regretted the less our want of time to repair to it.

Pursuing the road, we passed by Leathes Water, a narrow, uninteresting lake, black and gloomy, not owing to its depth, but to the strata through which it runs, which is of the colour of slate, and to the dark rocks which hang over, and seem as if falling into it, and which deprive it of that fine effect of light and shade universally to be found in the Highland lakes, superior to any I have seen elsewhere.

The road winds through these prodigious crags, and, descending, we saw before us Grassmere Water, which we thought far superior, in the composition of its parts, to any of the lakes we had passed. It is considerably enlivened by the neat village of Grassmere, consisting of white houses covered with slate, and the parish church rising in the centre: but still it is much colder in its appearance than Loch Lomond, Loch Tay, or any of the more

northern lakes; and this appeared to me to be occasioned not by the want of wood, for it is well provided with trees, hedges, and inclosures on its verge, but to the changed state of agriculture around it. The farmers, finding the soil and climate unfavourable for corn, have diminished the quantity of arable land, and converted it into pasturage, which has hurt the beauty of the scenery, as the meanest corn-fields certainly enrich the view, and the poverty of the crops can only be discovered on a near inspection.

The road passes over Grassmere Hill, and, descending into a vale, we came to *Rydal Water*, a pretty little lake, taking its name from Rydal Hall, which we soon approached.

This is the ancient mansion of the respectable family of Le Fleming, who have been resident in the North of England from the time of the Conquest; and this beautiful seat came into their possession in the reign of Henry IV. by the marriage of an ancestor of the present proprietor with an heiress, the daughter of Sir John Lancaster.

Mr. Gerrard, as I proposed only to stay an hour or two, proceeded forward to Ambleside, wishing, while I waited for and with Sir Michael, to amuse himself with examining accurately the splendour of Windermere. He took the gig, and left me Sardonix*, my black mare.

On our arrival, I found that Sir Michael was gone to fish for char; but had taken proper care to prevent my proceeding without seeing him: by his desire I went after him, attended by his groom with his horses. We joined the party, all busy in drawing a pool in the river: it consisted of ladies and gentlemen. They were so engaged, that I came upon them unexpectedly. As their cavalry were in the highest condition, and the group perfectly well dressed, they added much to the beauty of the situation, by the elegant pastime they were following. Nets, from the simple forms they take, have a most picturesque appearance; and the fish and some wicker baskets that were dispersed; some horses loose and grazing, and the vale itself small,

* The sardonix is one of the largest and most durable stones we are acquainted with; and this mare being possessed of all those requisites in a hackney, we had her christened as above.

but, in composition, not to be surpassed, made me lament Mr. Gerrard's absence.

I was discovered contemplating the company, and marking them on paper for Mr. Gerrard's approbation. They advanced, and being introduced by my old friend to the ladies and the party, we were, as all fashionable people are in such parties, very easy.

Sir Michael very much admired the horse I rode, I offered readily to sell him, and we had nearly agreed, before I discovered to him, that it was one of his own. He paid me some compliments on my seat as a Yorkshireman, and we all laughed most immoderately. Returned, amply provided with very fine char, some of them weighing near two pounds. I had never seen one above the size of a small herring before: they were much fatter than any I had seen in the Highlands.

It was in vain now to think of departing; for the baronet kindly pressed me to pass a few days with him, and an agreeable party of his friends, then on a visit. Accepting, therefore, his cordial invitation, it gave me an opportunity to examine the various beauties of this enchanting spot.

October 26.—Morning frosty; but clear and fine.

Rose early, and resolved to devote it to a full contemplation of the magnificent and delightful scenes around the house.

I well knew my friend was not an early riser; I also knew that he was the best soul in the world; and, conceiving that such merits were equally dispensed to the females of the same family, if the beauties of the scenery should make me a little exceed the hour of breakfast, I was certain I should be forgiven.

I had, with Mr. Gerrard, taken a slight view of the cascade above, and of the smaller one below the house. I now examined them again, and found that, though inferior in size, and not so tremendous as the great Fall of Fiers, Thornton Falls, and some others, they are peculiarly well adapted for a picture; and a very justly admired one has been painted by M. G. Gerrard, of which an elegant print has been executed by Middiman.

I now returned, and found I was just in time for breakfast, and Sir

Michael requested me to desire Mr. Gerrard to follow, whom he undertook to wait on; but as I knew it would interfere with his schemes, I politely excused him, and wrote word, that I would wish him to amuse himself and go on to Thornville at his leisure, as it might be a day or two before I should leave my generous landlord; he accordingly proceeded, returning me the gig.

October 27.—Morning frosty; but day delightful.

We had agreed the night before to rise early, in order to take the hill-road to Ponsonby, by which twenty-five miles are saved; but Sir Michael being engaged in justice business, and other similarly *pleasant* avocations for a young gentleman, the forenoon passed away insensibly; and, finding the day so much advanced, I had the honour to set out with Miss Fleming, leaving the gentlemen to follow.

The sun shone most delightfully, and, as we passed *Rider Lake*, a small piece of water, the property of Sir Michael, about three miles in circumference, the picturesque islands, with which it was studded, and the fertility of its variegated banks, clothed with a happy mixture of hollies, oaks, &c. made the country appear quite beautiful.

The road being narrow, as well as hilly, was, consequently, except in some parts, very unsociable. In this ride, I found we had by far the best view of Grassmere. The church, with the road winding over the hill beyond it, and the scene bounded by the valley, gave the lake a most delightful appearance.

Proceeded as fast as the road would admit. The gentlemen, we had been obliged to leave at Rydal Hall, overtook us, as I was contemplating the wild situation round Hard Knot, a vale which forms a junction of the three counties of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancashire. Should three of the most enthusiastic provincialists meet here, I think they would not dispute about the luxuriancy of their respective counties.

The road is really more deplorable than Glen Crow, Glen Ammon, or Sluick Muich, which I fancy no Scotchman would expect to find here. It climbs over the very tops of the mountains, now grizzled with snow, and even

continued heaps of loose, angular stones, which makes it very dangerous riding. I really should have been greatly distressed for any other lady; but Miss F's accomplishments, as a horsewoman, joined to the goodness of the animal she rode, made all anxiety, on her account, needless.

After a ride of fourteen miles, which appeared short, from the lively sallies and *bon mots* of our party, we arrived at *Esdale*, an absolute Highland inn, affording nothing but bad corn, and some tolerable ale, a liquor I never drink; but our provident friend, Sir M. had sent forward an excellent dinner, and I never passed my time more agreeably. Fearing, however, that night should overtake us, and having still *eleven* miles to Ponsonby, we were obliged to proceed, and, when we arrived, it was too dark to see its beauties.

Weather the same as the preceding day.

Ponsonby-House, the seat of Mr. Stanley, is a large, new edifice, not quite finished, built under the direction of that eminent architect, Mr. Paine. The plan is both elegant and commodious. It consists of three fronts; the principal, which is the north-east, commands a fine view of Calder Abbey, situated in a beautiful but narrow vale, the banks very steep, and clothed with different woods, above which rise the gently-sloping Ponsonby Fells*, and Scaw Fell, rather too naked at present, but regularly inclosed. To the north, the eye surveys a very fine glen, beautifully shaded with ancient oaks and infant firs, and crowded with every flowering shrub. Fortunately this valley runs in such a manner, that little of its beauty is lost; nor does it interrupt the view of a larger tract of well-improved, flat country, at the extremity of which is indistinctly seen the thriving and rich town of Whitehaven. This spot also affords a noble view of the sea, with the island and Calf of Man; and not less than two hundred sail of shipping appeared in sight. The west front looks down the valley, takes in another view of the sea, and, in a favourable day, you may discern, at the same time, Burrow-head, in Scotland, the Mull of Galloway, and Flintshire.

* The common appellation in the North of England for hills and crags.

From the calmness of the day, the sea appeared like a sheet of glass, and the vessels, some tacking, others sailing before the wind, seemed white as silver, and made this scene, so different from any I had lately beheld, perfectly beautiful.

After breakfast our company divided, some on shooting parties, others for coursing*. I chose the latter, having an opportunity, while pursuing it, of admiring some delightful prospects.

We tried for some cocks in the above-mentioned beautiful glen, where, it was said, a brace and a half had been seen the day before, but had no success: I was, however, sufficiently repaid for my walk, by having it in my power to contemplate the beauties of a venerable, old, stunted oak, forming a long, fantastic, and wide arch over the river beneath it, which is full of salmon and trout.

I understood from Mr. Stanley, that salmon taken from the sea are far superior to those caught in the river; and as he has every opportunity of judging, I make no doubt but his remark is well founded.

I had a salmon sent me by Mr. Hugh Todd, of Ruthven, whose snout was similar to that of a hawk, which I understood is not uncommon, when they have been in fresh water; I therefore did not trouble Mr. Gerrard to paint it.

I have given myself the trouble to attend to the cause of this, and it appears to me, that probably it is owing to their turning up the gravel with their snouts, to deposit their spawn, which they always do in rivers. Minnows have been said not to inhabit the Spey; and on examining a small lake, adjoining a larger one, called Craglochy, and very near the Spey, I found the accounts accurate; I have no doubt, but in those parts of the Spey that are not too rapid for their nature, there are plenty.

* I cannot say much in favour of my friend's greyhounds; indeed, his only idea of goodness in the dogs, is of those that kill most, which lurchers, from their cunning, frequently do. I am confident he may have reason to be satisfied; but they are not dogs to my *gout*, nor did I quite please him, when I recommended a barber.

Returns of the day; a brace of hares; Sir Michael's shooting, quite harmless.

Morning, a severe white frost; day charming.

I went with my friend to see *Calder Abbey*, an elegant, neat, and simple piece of antiquity. As an abbey it is small, but in the highest preservation: and its situation is truly charming. The verdure around, and its pretty river, the Calder, meandering through the vale in an amphitheatre of venerable oaks, while the eye commanding as favourable a view of Ponsonby as, in return, it receives from the abbey, render the whole a most enchanting scene. In this truly happy situation, I understood, Mr. J. intends to build.

Unwilling to lose the opportunity so favourable a day afforded, of seeing places to advantage, we trotted on to Mr. Lutwich's, about four miles from Calder. The house is small, neat, and whimsical; but too much crowded with wood at the entrance, which excludes the rays of the sun, and makes the rooms gloomy and damp. To the north-east, it stands on the brink of a verdant precipice, chequered with different forest and fruit trees, that alternately vary the scene, the beauties of which are greatly heightened by the river Calder, at this place quite crystalline, from the beautiful bed it runs through. On the opposite banks are regular, rich pastures, neatly kept, and presenting several glances of little, spouting cascades. The back ground is bounded, at the distance of about four miles, by the infinitely wild mountains of Wesdal, broken and rocky to a degree. These circumstances altogether make this one of the most romantic and beautiful Highland views I ever beheld.

Above the house is seen a stupendous rock, called *Adam's Crag*, which might, with great propriety, be denominated *Castle Crag*, as it happily assumes the form of an elegant, large castle, when viewed at a proper distance; and, upon a nearer inspection, is a singularly magnificent, natural curiosity.

Returned by an excellent road to Ponsonby, and overtook Sir M. F. who had seen plenty of game, but had been unsuccessful, which he attributed to his gun being crooked.

Sir James Graham and his brother dined with us at Ponsonby, and politely expressed their concern at not being at Netherton when I passed it, upon which I promised to pay my respects to Sir James in my next excursion, and to examine his museum of Roman antiquities, so universally known and admired by the literati.

Day delightful and no frost. Our whole party went to see Lord Mulcaster's; the road, like most others in this country, was better supplied with materials than any I know of elsewhere; and they are not injudiciously applied.

Mulcaster House is a very large, old, irregular building, fitted up in the best Gothic style: I think I scarcely ever saw a greater number, or more elegantly furnished, rooms in any house whatever.

It stands boldly on the verge of a very steep precipice, the south-west, or principal front, overlooking a pretty small lawn, embossomed by a hill, clothed to the top with different forest trees; these shelter the house from the north wind, which blows here impetuously. In this prospect, without suffering any inconvenience from the wood, you have an advantageous view of the sea, at the distance of about a mile.

To the south, beyond another fine hanging wood, is seen the river, branching off into several arms, and running rapidly along the flats, where it falls into a fine salt-water lake; the whole bounded by beautiful, smooth, sloping hills, covered with sheep.

The view to the east differs very materially from either of the other two. Adjoining to the house is a very ancient hanging bank of venerable oaks, mixed with other trees, sheltering the building from the wind, and at the same time receiving such protection from it themselves, that they grow wonderfully large. Looking up the valley the river again is seen, bubbling as it passes; its chequered banks formed into little coppices, the receptacles of a great number of woodcocks, while beyond, at the distance of three or four miles, appear immensely wild rocks, exhibiting their rugged, weather-beaten fronts, and their heads lost in the clouds. In short, I never saw any place more fortunately situated.

Having had the honour to know Lord Mulcaster some years past, his lordship now pressed me very much to stay with him a few days, assuring me that he had seen plenty of woodcocks the day before; and adding many other kind inducements, which, had I not been engaged as I was, would most readily have prevailed with me.

We were so much struck with the elegance of the inside of this mansion, and the beautiful prospects about it, that we staid till we found it very difficult to pass the Dudden Sands; these are narrow, and the tide running in very fast, and not attending properly to my guide, Sir M. F. but contemplating the views, if I had not been roused by the gentlemen who were farther on the shore, I should certainly have shown my mare's abilities as a swimmer.

The road from Mulcaster House to Broughton, which is about eight miles, for the first six passes over dreary moors; but, within a mile of Broughton, the hanging banks, little cottages, and a prospect, through the valley, of the sea forming itself into a lake, interspersed with islands, relieved the eye after so solitary a ride.

We had sent a servant forward to order dinner, and found, on our arrival, a neat, small inn, where we had excellent fish, and were, in every respect, well accommodated.

After dinner we proceeded for Coniston, passing by Broughton Hall, which, in my opinion, is by no means well situated. Night came on so fast, and the road was sometimes so steep, that it was twilight before we reached the banks of Coniston Lake, which I lamented, as both the lake and the country round it are beautifully picturesque, and finely variegated.

Drank tea at Mrs. Knotts. These ladies, who have a seat likewise in the Highlands, turned the conversation upon the superiority of those scenes, in which we perfectly agreed.

Miss F. with much solicitation, was prevailed upon to stay the evening, which was the mildest imaginable, and we set off for Rydal Hall; the murmuring of water-falls heard at a distance, and the romantic scenes advan-

tageously discovered by the clear light of the moon, as we passed, made our ride seem very short, and we reached home sooner than we expected.

October 28.—Day warm and pleasant.

The morning passed away so agreeably, that, though we had determined to try for woodcocks early, we did not get fairly out of doors till twelve o'clock; and after beating about for some time, without success, I joined the gamekeeper, who had been ordered to procure for me some char, the best he could get.

Had very good sport, killing about six dozen of these fish, some still larger than those I had seen, and some trout. He informed me that in Rydal Water, I mean the river, where he was fishing, fourteen dozen of large char have been taken with a net, at one draught.

On our return, we met with some woodcocks and a snipe, and killed two brace and a half.

They are very plentiful in this part of the country during the season, and are publicly sold in great numbers at Hawkshead, in the vicinity of Rydal, formerly for six-pence each, but now the *Fly's* from Kendal take them south; they are as much encreased in value as other articles of luxury.

Returns; killed five woodcocks, one snipe.

October 29.—Day gloomy, but in other respects fine.

As I had a desire, previous to my quitting, to examine Coniston Lake, and this morning being highly favourable for the purpose, I took a ride towards that charming spot.

The road we found but indifferent; its defects, however, were amply compensated by the surrounding scenery, which was in the highest degree interesting. After a short ride, we ascended to the top of a neighbouring hill, from whence the full extent of the lake may be seen to the greatest advantage.

Coniston Lake is certainly a beautiful sheet of water, and the fertility of the rich meadows, which surround it, heightens the effect, as do the lower parts of the adjacent mountains, which are well covered with wood. In point of variety, however, the scenery, though beautiful, by no means equals

Windermere. The hills assume a more regular appearance in their summits, and reach, in general, the water's edge with a more gentle descent. The want of islands too is a great deficiency, and, upon the whole, though it possesses great beauties, as they must be considerably lessened by a comparison with Windermere, that lake should by all means be seen last.

The north end of Coniston Lake has a bold and striking appearance; and here we admire the situation of Coniston Hall on an eminence, and surrounded with fine hanging woods*, with rich pasture lands below, reaching to the edge of the lake. Behind and above the hall, several mountains rise with tremendous majesty, craggy, bleak, and barren; from the bosom of which a cataract issues, which in wet weather must add considerably to the grandeur of the scene.

I now bid adieu, with regret, to all the beauties of Rydal Hall, but had the satisfaction of enjoying the company of the worthy family, in my progress to Kendal, to which town they were likewise going on a visit.

Passed Ambleside, a place much noticed by Camden, Horsley, and other writers, as having been a Roman station; but there are now only small remains of its antiquity; and a good inn is perhaps the only object worth the traveller's attention: all the variegated beauties of the country, however, surround it, and may be visited in walks and short rides. Roman coins, arms, and urns have been found here at different times; and it is evident, that the ancient Roman road took the same direction as the present turnpike road through Rydal.

The inhabitants of these parts are very industrious, and are much employed in knitting stockings for Kendal market; in spinning woollen yarn, and making thread to weave their linsies. The countenances of the people

* Some of the trees here are of prodigious size, as will be seen by the following memorandum :

Rydal, October 26, 1784.

MEMORANDUM.—That in March last a cluster pine was cut down at Coniston demesne, in Lancashire, the property of Sir Michael Le Fleming, Bart. which was one hundred years old; had two hundred feet of useful timber in it, and eleven feet in length at the but of the tree, contained sixty feet of timber. The large sound oak tree, by the sheep-house, is nineteen feet in circumference.

may be perceived here to differ considerably from their southern neighbours, especially in the tender sex; and the square face, and the high cheek bone, are strong indications of their proximity to North Britain.

Below Ambleside, in a meadow near the River Brathay, is a Roman camp, the outline of which is still very visible, and extends one way four hundred feet, and three hundred the other. It is supposed by Mr. Pennant to be the *Dictis* of the *Notitia*, and was the station of part of the cohort of the *Numerus Nerviorum Dictensium*. It was placed very conveniently to command several passes. Coins, bricks, and other antiquities are often found on this spot.

We followed the banks of the charming, justly-celebrated, Lake of Windermere, a beautiful epitome of the great Highland lake; fortunately, the sun peeping out occasionally, gave us that advantageous view of its beauties, which we apprehended we should be deprived of by the gloominess of the morning. Many stations are pointed out as the most advantageous for viewing this lake, in the same manner as at Derwentwater, and the particular descriptions of such situations may serve to swell volumes of guides and tours to the lakes; but, after all, every one will judge for himself on the spot, as I did, conceiving that, in our way to Kendal, we had as favourable a view of Windermere as we could wish for.

Our road continuing for about five miles by the side of the lake, brought us nearly to the Horse Ferry, which crosses the lake to the village of Sawrey; and this being about the centre, we had a fine view, not only across, but almost of the whole extent of the lake, including the islands and the injudicious erections on them.

So many, and such ample descriptions have been given of Windermere, and it is so foreign to my purpose to expatiate on the subject, that I shall content myself with simply pointing out the difference between this admired lake and others.

Each of the lakes, no doubt, has its own particular features; Grassmere is characterized by mildness; Derwentwater by grandeur; Coniston is elegant, romantic, and sublime; but Windermere, from its immensity and variety of

prospect, may justly claim the character of magnificence. Here almost every object confesses cultivation; but the islands, though numerous and woody, are small, and in general bear a resemblance to the artificial circles raised in gentlemen's canals, for aquatic fowls to breed in. The great island is little better than a bank of sand, and is now under the despoiling hand of a deformer. The hills in general are humble, except above Ambleside; and the margin of the water is irregularly indented, forming numerous bays and promontories; the latter, composed of fine meadow-ground and ranges of trees, are of exquisite beauty; while on every side a vast expanse of woodlands is stretched upon the view.

Windermere Lake is twelve computed miles long, and not above one in the widest part. The greatest depth is supposed to be about forty fathoms. It abounds in pike, trout, char, eels, and perch.

Quitting the banks of the lake a little beyond Bowness, we found a very good road, though a little hilly, to Kendal, and a delightful ride. Passed by Ings church, a neat, modern building, which is said to owe its foundation to the following event:

A British merchant, of the name of Ings, or Innes, a native of this part of the country, having acquired a very considerable fortune at Lisbon, where he had resided many years; and from whence he had, from time to time, conveyed great part of his property to his relations in England; at length, resolved to return to his native country, and having converted the remainder of his effects into Portugal gold, embarked with it privately, on board a vessel, bound for England; which was scarcely got out of the harbour, when his escape was discovered, and a great outcry made from the shore to bring her back: the captain, sensible of his own danger, would have tacked about, and landed him, when his whole property would have been confiscated, and his person imprisoned; it being contrary to the laws of Portugal to carry the gold coin out of the kingdom; but, providentially, the wind blowing directly contrary, obliged the captain to continue his course, and he arrived safe in England; and built this church in grateful remembrance of his wonderful preservation.

KENDAL.

I had only just time to examine this ancient town on our arrival, as we were engaged to dine with Mr. Strickland, at Sizergh Hall, about three miles out of Kendal, on the road to Milthrop.

Sizergh, or, as it is commonly called, Siser Hall, is a venerable, old mansion, said to have been built in the reign of Henry II. consequently it is one of the most ancient family seats in Britain, as its large antique tower alone sufficiently testifies; and in Kendal church there is, I understand, a chapel belonging to the Strickland family, which shows their early settlement in this country.

Considerable additions and improvements have been made by the present worthy owner; and the whole building, being white, has a very advantageous appearance, having a back ground of old oaks and forest trees; a pretty opening into a small park, and the river Kent in front, on which there is a considerable iron-forge, and two water-falls, of no great height. The principal rooms are lofty and spacious, lined with oak, and carved with the same ancient and exquisite taste as the admired great room in Windsor Castle.

After passing the day in the most agreeable manner, at this delightful retreat, our party returned in the evening to the inn, at Kendal; dressed and went to a ball, in the house: the room was rather small, but the company very genteel; the ladies in general handsome; though the music, after that I had heard in Scotland, appeared to me very indifferent.

Morning pleasant and promising a fine day.

Having taken leave of the ladies at breakfast, Sir Michael, who is universally known and respected here, did me the honour to accompany me in taking a general view of the town. It consists of two principal streets, one about a mile and a quarter long, the other about half a mile; the houses of which are ill built, stand irregularly, and for the most part have a mean appearance, though there are many of a superior kind, the residence of the more opulent inhabitants. The only public building worth the notice of

travellers, the castle being in ruins, is the parish church, one of the largest perhaps in Britain: it is a fine old Gothic edifice with a square tower, very plain within, being destitute of all ornament, but kept remarkably clean and neat.

The inhabitants of Kendal are very industrious, and, from time immemorial, have carried on an extensive trade in fish hooks, for the fabrication of which they are famous; they have also established a cotton manufactory, and expect great advantages from it. Indeed, if we may judge from the extensive tenter-grounds surrounding the town, it is already in a flourishing condition. The river Kent, over which there are three stone bridges, meanders through the town; and running into a pretty valley, renders the situation very convenient for bleaching their cottons and linens. The white appearance of the cloth on the tenters, it seems, has deceived strangers on their approach to the town, in the dusk of the evening, who have mistaken them for small buildings, most of the houses being of stone, covered with a white, rough cast; and this deception made them conceive the town to be much larger than it is in reality.

At the Hce, near Kendal, the property of Mr. Robinson, a few years since a branch was blown off a beech tree, which measured two hundred cubic feet; the parent tree, when cut down, measured eight hundred feet.

With proper acknowledgments for his polite attention and repeated civilities, I bid adieu to my worthy friend, and got on horseback precisely at twelve o'clock, intending, if possible, to be at Marshfield by three.

The country, on quitting the suburbs of Kendal, becomes very barren, being almost destitute of leaf or grass; the russet predominates, and the road is hilly and stony, which made it unpleasant riding; but soon coming in sight of Kirby Lonsdale, my eye was instantly relieved, and my ideas enlivened; for here the beautiful river Lune refreshes the vale; some hanging woods, corn fields, and good pastures, together with the pleasing appearance of the neat town of Kirby Lonsdale, rendered the scene quite delightful.

Being unwilling to stop a moment longer than was actually necessary, I had only a transient view of the place, while my mare was taking a feed of corn. Attended by my landlord, I went to the church-yard, which is kept very clean; is uncommonly large, and remarkable for the pretty, rural, snug vicarage-house, fronting the entrance.

This, and an elegant house belonging to Mr. North, were the only buildings that appeared to me of any consequence, though there are many comfortable houses with good gardens, and the town in general is clean and well paved.

The multiplicity of inns, I had observed in all the towns since I left Carlisle, struck me still more forcibly here, from their uncommon number, though scarcely two in three could afford signs.

At the bridge over the Lune, the water, pent in between rugged rocks, runs beautifully; and here I saw a fisher trying his fortune in a pool, in spite of the fine weather, which made it transparent, and the lowness of the water, with that want of success which might well be expected from these circumstances.

Trotting on briskly, I perceived, to the left, that stupendous and well-known mountain, Ingleborough, and came in view of a town which I took for Settle; passed under the high and romantic rocks, called Giggleswick Scar, and saw a well by the road side, which struck me to be the one I had heard so much of, that ebbs and flows; but I did not perceive that singularity while I remained, which indeed I could not do so long as I wished, fearing I should arrive too late at Marshfield*.

* Mr. Gray, in his tour to the caves in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, gives the following account of this well: "We were in luck, seeing it reciprocate several times, while we were there, and not staying above an hour. We could not, however, learn, with any degree of certainty, by what intervals of time, and to what heights and depths the reciprocation was carried on. We were informed that if the weather was either very droughty or very wet, the phenomenon ceased. I have seen some philosophical attempts to solve this extraordinary curiosity on the principle of the syphon, but in vain; as, on that hypothesis, if the syphon is filled by the spring, it will flow on uniformly for ever. We were told by drunken Bamoly, a hundred and fifty years ago, that it puzzled the wits of his age, as the following stanzas evince.

Proceeded, and entering the town, was informed that what I had conceived to be Settle was Giggleswick, but that I had not deviated above a quarter of a mile from the road. Soon arrived at

MARSHFIELD,

the seat of Mr. Parker, near Settle; and, on the groom's taking my mare, enquired when dinner would be ready, but can scarcely say whether I was most vexed or satisfied on hearing, that it would not be ready for an hour and a half. I had understood from my friend, Sir Michael Le Fleming, who is related to Mr. Parker, that his dinner hour was three o'clock, and had made what expedition I could; but the trot, at which I had now come, surpassed all my former journeys; for, though I had gone a little out of the road, forming a ride of thirty-three miles and a half, I found, by my watch, I had performed this journey in two hours and forty-two minutes; and when the road, which was rather hilly, is considered, and the low state to which bad Highland hay and worse corn had reduced my horses, with the time taken up in feeding the mare at Kirby Lonsdale, I think about fourteen minutes, it was performed in a surprising short time.

The mare I rode was certainly a very astonishing creature; not fourteen hands high, and mistress of sixteen stone; she won several trotting matches of sixteen miles within the hour; but her bottom was her great fort, for it

*Veni Giggleswick, parum frugis,
Profert tellus, clausa jugis:
Ibi vena prope viâ
Fluit, refluit, nocte, die;
Neque norunt unde vena
An à sale vel arenâ.*

Thence to Giggleswick most steril,
Hemm'd with shelves and rocks of peril,
Near to th' way, as a traveller goes
A fine fresh spring both ebbs and flows;
Neither know the learn'd that travel,
What procures it, salt or gravel.

appeared to me, as the ride will testify, that she varied very little in the two hours and twenty-eight minutes she was on the road.

My friend not being returned from his morning ride, I soon got dressed, and amused myself before dinner with admiring the infinite neatness that reigned both within and without, in every department of this very enviable little pavilion*.

It gave me great pleasure on our meeting to find my old acquaintance and his lady, in that perfect health, which is commonly enjoyed by those who inhabit the salubrious air of Craven.

We passed the remainder of the day in the most social manner, and, in the course of the evening, the conversation, turning, amongst other things, upon the subject of expeditious journeys, occasioned by my ride in the morning, Mr. Parker mentioned a journey performed by a person in his neighbourhood, called Giles Hoyle, an expedition so singular in its kind, that I thought it merited preservation, and, therefore, requested to take a memorandum of it, which is as follows:

"September 4, 1780.—Giles Hoyle rode from Ipswich to Tiptree, and back again, for the purpose of obtaining leave of absence for Major Clayton, to attend the election at Clitheroe, from General Parker, being sixty-six miles in six hours.

"September 5.—He rode with his master from Ipswich to Gisburne Park; they started at six o'clock in the morning, and arrived at Gisburne Park at two o'clock in the afternoon the day following, two hundred and thirty miles; this he performed in thirty-two hours.

"Seventh.—Dined at Browsholme, twelve miles.

"Eighth.—Returned to Clitheroe, five miles, and, at ten o'clock that night, he took horse for Lulworth Castle, in Dorsetshire, with conveyance deeds of some borough-houses, in Clitheroe, for the signature of Mr. Weld. He arrived at Lulworth between nine and ten o'clock on Monday morning

* Since the above was written, this charming box has been destroyed by fire; but, to a man of Mr. P.'s fortune, as most of the valuable furniture was saved, it was of less consequence, and gave scope to his elegant taste in rebuilding a larger, though not more desirable, residence.

the tenth. Transacted his business, and returned to Clitheroe on the following evening at seven o'clock; the whole being five hundred and forty miles. This he performed in sixty-nine hours.

"N. B. Giles Hoyle kept an exact account of his expences to a penny, during the above time. The weather was very wet and stormy the whole journey."

Morning charming; the air rather sharp.

Mr. Parker, being politely desirous of showing me the objects around him most worthy of attention, we mounted our horses, and, after passing through some noble pastures, clothed with the finest grass, and chequered with herds of long-horned, or, as they are generally called Craven cattle, and sheep, came on the edge of the moors, where, indeed, the road was but indifferent.

With some difficulty we got to

MALMSTARN.

a sporting seat of Mr. Lister, brother-in-law to Mr. Parker.

We found that gentleman at home; and after showing me the inside of his lodge, which is commodious enough, he gave me some idea of his future plans of improvement: no place in England can be better situated for the amusements of the field. In the *tarn*, or little lake, which lies directly in the front of his house is very good trout and perch fishing, and both fish are esteemed the best of the kind: I saw some very fine ones of both sorts. Trout are taken of *six* or *seven* pounds, and perch of not much inferior weight. There is also the best moor-game shooting in the county, and no better coursing even at Newmarket.

Having taken a little refreshment, notwithstanding the pressing solicitations of Mr. Lister, and leaving Mr. Parker to follow me at his leisure, I pushed forward to see Gordale-Scar, and Malham-Cave, commonly called Maum-Cove, and was much pleased with both, having conceived that they were scarce worth my notice, after what I had seen northwards; but though not

so romantic, they differ so widely from them in their characters, that I was agreeably surprised.

GORDALE-SCAR

is situated about seven miles to the east of Settle, over the moors, and is the chief of a number of high perpendicular rocks, or mountains, whose fronts appear smooth, resembling the side of a house, and are perfectly white, their strata being limestone. Between these rocks there is an astonishing rent or chasm, through which rushes a fine cascade, having a rude natural arch remaining above. The base of Gordal-Scar is washed by the river Air, and the best prospect of it is from the side of the opposite western bank.

When you have sufficiently admired its awful front from this situation, you may descend the bank, though steep, to the shallow stream beneath, by taking hold of the trees and shrubs with which it is chequered, and, by stepping from one broken fragment of a rock to another, the river may be easily passed; and, on the other side, the shore lies under this prodigious impending block of limestone.

Mr. Gray, who took no small pains to explore this natural grotto, expresses his feelings at the time, in very pathetic terms. "The idea," says he, "for personal safety, excited some awful sensations, accompanied with a tremor. The mind is not always able to divest itself of prejudices and unpleasing associations of ideas. Reason told us that this rock could not be moved out of its place by human force, blind chance, or the established laws of nature. We stood too far under its margin to be affected by any crumbling, descending fragment, and a very small one would have crushed us to atoms, if it had fallen upon us; yet, in spite of reason and judgment, the same unpleasing sensations of terror ran coldly through our veins, which we should have felt, if we had looked down, though secure, from its lofty top. Nothing, however, fell upon us, but a few large drops, which sweat from out of its horrid prominent front. Some goats frisked about with

seemingly a wanton carelessness on the brink of this dreadful precipice; where none of us would have stood for all the pleasant vales washed by the river Air. Some lines in Virgil's *Eclogues* seemed to receive additional beauties, when repeated in this grotesque scene:"

*Non ego vos posthac viridi projectus in Antro,
Dumosa pendere procul de rupe videbo.*

VIRGIL, *Ecl. I. lib. 76.*

"No more extended in the grot below,
Shall I e'er see my goats high up the brow,
Eating the prickly shrubs, or, void of care,
Lean down the precipice, and hang in air."

Having satisfied my curiosity, I proceeded for

MAUM-COVE,

which we soon came in sight of: it is a prodigious rent or fissure of a very considerable rock, so nearly united at the top, that it appeared as though a very tolerable leaper might have jumped across the aperture with great safety; consequently it did not convey the idea I had entertained of entering an immense cave. At its base there rushes out a small brook; but the servant who attended, informed me that, after heavy rains, this subterraneous passage, unable to carry off the accumulated waters, forces its way, as a cataract, dashing down, from the rock above, in the most magnificent manner imaginable; but I must beg leave to differ from Mr. Gray, in not conceiving it superior to Niagara. Of this I am confident, that it is very inferior to the Falls of Fiers.

It was now time for me to return to meet my friend, whom I found waiting for me above, and we rode gently on towards home. Having some spare time before dinner, he was pleased to show me, as we returned, at the back of Marshfield, and directly above the town of Settle, a white rock, not unlike a tower, called Castle-Bar, about nineteen or twenty yards in perpendicular height. I confess I was much pleased with it. This natural

precipice, has been much assisted by art, and will be daily more so, and rendered additionally awful by the quantity of limestone dug from the cavity at its base, to supply an adjacent kiln.

Mr. Parker, being a member of the Falconer's Club, and one of the first promoters of conviviality at home and abroad, had contrived to invite several of those jolly mortals to meet me at dinner, when we passed the remainder of the day together most happily, and recounted the different long flights we had had after kites, hems, hares, &c. at Alconbury Hill and Newmarket, in the company of the much-esteemed Earl of Orford, and other members. The jovial hours we had passed there gave us as much pleasure on reflection, as they had afforded in real action.

Rose early, wishing to get to Thornville as soon as possible. Passed through

SETTLE,

a small town; but possessed of some trade, and a market-place so spacious, that it is out of all proportion to its size. The houses here, in general, are old and low, and there are but very few good ones, which may be owing to two causes: the situation of the town, which is directly under rocky hills, and its parish church being at Giggleswick, near to which the gentry have erected very neat boxes, and formed a kind of separation from the tradesmen.

Having sent on my servants the night before, I rode one of Mr. Parker's hacks, at a trot, I believe, it had not been accustomed to, in order to get to Skipton to breakfast.

The road I found excellent, and, the whole ride, as far as Gargrave, enriched with the same noble pastures I had admired near Marshfield, which, from the hilarity that reigned there, I have ever since called *Mirth-Field*; and, I think, with much greater propriety, in every point of view; for nothing can be less *marshy* than its situation.

To the right of the road is indistinctly seen Gisburne-Park, the seat of Mr. Lister, the gentleman whom we left at Maumtarn.

After passing through Gargrave, a most enchanting view opens of Yarl-dale, the river, vessels, Skipton Castle, and part of the town; and the whole being situated in fertile and extensive pasturages, filled with large herds of cattle, gave such innumerable beauties to this ride, that I could scarcely admire one scene sufficiently before my attention was attracted by another.

Arrived at

SKIPTON

in good time, and found all my cavalry perfectly refreshed, and, I dare say, full as desirous of finishing their autumnal journey as their master.

Skipton is situated in a deep valley, surrounded by lofty hills, clothed with the finest grass, and the pastures are divided in a manner that produces the most whimsical effect. It is rather a large market-town, and has one spacious street ascending to the castle, which, however, is the only building of any consequence. This edifice appears to be of modern date, on an old foundation, has round towers, and is the property of the Earl of Thanet, but is not inhabited: it is kept in tolerable repair, but has been unfurnished these five years.

The environs of this town afford many charming studies for landscape-painters.

Visited, in my way through Knaresborough, that celebrated natural curiosity, the Dropping Well, or Petrifying Spring, which is situated in the Long Walk, close by the river.

This spring rises at some distance, and runs part of the way underground, before it comes upon the rock, which is sixteen or seventeen feet high, and as it bends in a circular projection, from the bottom to the top, in such a manner, that its brow hangs over four or five feet, the water does not run down the side, but drops very fast from thirty or forty places into a bason, which it has hollowed in the ground, and every drop creates a musical kind of tinkling, which is probably owing to the concavity of the rock. Here are seen several pieces of moss, birds' nests, with their eggs, and a

variety of other articles, some of them very curious, which have been incrustcd, or petrified, by this water*.

BRIMHAM ROCKS.

Leaving Burnt Gates, and proceeding towards Patcly Bridge, is seen, on the right-hand, the rocks of Brimham, which appear at a distance, like the vast ruins of some great city. On quitting the road to take a nearer view, you ascend up the hill through a broken and craggy path, leading amongst the rocks, which present a scene the most wild and desolate imaginable; many of them singularly picturesque, of various forms, and astonishing magnitude; some completely bare, others distinguishable for nothing but their black brows and melancholy shades.

Extract of Hargrove's History of Knaresborough.

* "At the breaking out of the rebellion in 1745, the gentlemen of this county, ever distinguished for their loyalty to their king, and steady attachment to the rights and liberties of Englishmen, entered into an association for the public defence; amongst whom William Thornton, Esq. of Thornville, distinguished himself in so particular a manner, by raising a company of soldiers, and marching at their head against the rebels, in the mountains of Scotland, as procured him the thanks, applause, and esteem of every wellwisher to the constitution. The inhabitants of Knaresborough, desirous to testify their gratitude for such eminent services, entreated his acceptance of a silver table, on which was engraven as follows:

On the upper Side.

Gulielmo Thornton, Arm.

Qui cum Cohorte Militum

Sumpto suo non mediocri

Sustentata

Pro Rege et Patria

In Scotia contra Rebelles

Improbissima Hyeme

Belli periculis

Sese magnanimiter

Obtulit

Anno. Dom. MDCCXLV.

Ebor

o : m : e :

D D.

The most remarkable objects in this astonishing group are the two *rocking stones*, about a quarter of a mile distant from each other; the one supposed to weigh fifty, and the other one hundred tons, either of which is so placed, as to be moved with one hand. These are conjectured to be the remains of druidical imposition.

Here is also a perforated rock, called the Cannon, from the perforation resembling the bore of a very large piece of artillery: it seems to be about six yards in length, and near one foot wide. At one end of the rock is a chasm sufficient to admit one person, who might here sit unseen by those on the opposite side, and by speaking aloud through the cavity, practise various impositions on the credulous multitude.

Having thus conducted the reader to the close of this Tour, the journal of which was, by our first agreement, intended to be kept, in order merely to ascertain the sport we had, and how far circumstances answered the idea I had given my friends of Scotland, I cannot better repay my obligations to that romantic country, for the amusement it has afforded me, than by re-

On the lower Side.

Gulielmo Thornton, Arm.

Qui cum Cohorte Militum

Sumptu suo non mediocri

Sustentata

Pro Rege et Patria

Contra Scotos monticulos

Improbissima Hyeme

Relicta Conjuge

Belli periculis

Sesse magnanimiter

Obtulit

Anno D'ni MDCCXLV.

Burgos Knaresburgensis

Ebor

O: M: E.

D D.

The table is two feet in diameter, and now in the possession of Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Thornton, of Thornville, son of the above gentleman."

commending its highly-varied charms to the notice of future travellers, in the elegant language of a modern writer, who, in taking a general view of its beauties, draws the following animated picture:

“In order to catch” says he, “the most prominent features of so various and vast an object, we must take our stand at a distance; we must lose sight of particular parts, and yield up our minds to the general impression that results from the whole. In so wide a field, he who should attempt to describe every thing, would in fact describe nothing. An endless repetition of hills, glens, rivers, bays, creeks, and other *minutiæ*, would divert the attention from the main object. Vistas must be cut through the wood, lest we lose ourselves amidst its endless recesses, and the multitude of its shrubs and trees. And as such vistas open new prospects beyond the forest in which we wander, so, in viewing the face of a country, we rise by abstraction to a point of elevation, from whence we look down on mountains, vales, and seas, as component parts of one magnificent object. We have a glimmering prospect of the highways, if I may be allowed the metaphor, by which Nature carries on, and unites her operations.

“In the more broken and rugged parts of the Highlands, it looks as if hundreds of mountains had been dashed into thousands of fragments, scattered about a vast plain. Rocks after rocks, which recal to the mind the fabulous wars of the giants, exhibit indisputable traces of some great convulsion of nature, which has certainly happened, although in ages so remote as to be recorded only in those marks, which we every where find, of violence and destruction. Here and there, amidst solitary and precipitous crags, a miserable hut is seen, and frequent pools of water. In such of the intervening spaces as are impervious to the plough, the poor native digs the soil with his mattock, that he may raise a few potatoes and some other vegetables, or gathers the short and scanty grass with his sickle or hook. But, in compensation for this sterility, the land, far indented at frequent and almost regular intervals, offers to the industry of the fisherman, and the amusement of the sportsman, great abundance and variety of fish: while both the sea,

and frequent lakes and pools of water breed wildfowl of various kinds in the greatest plenty*.

“To the botanist, Scotland affords a field equally rich as to the sportsman. Its indigenous plants are chiefly moss, heath, fern; a species of liquorice, called *currymaul*, berry-bearing shrubs, as the junipers, cranberry, raspberry, &c. the black thorn, the oak, the hazel, the aller or arne, the elder, and above all, the birch and the fir. Moss is found in every part of Scotland, and at all heights in the atmosphere; heath, fern, and currymauls not so far above the level of the sea; the shrubs bearing berries, on plains and the lower parts of the mountains; the black thorn, the oak, the hazel, and the elder in the valleys, and on the inferior parts of mountains and the lower hills; the aller, or arne, which is also found in marshy places in the valleys, thrives at a greater height than those in the atmosphere; the fir, which spreads itself, when unopposed, and domineers, as it were, over all the shrubs and trees of the plain, and which also triumphs over hills and the sides of lofty mountains, does not however possess so wide a domain as the fragrant birch, which is found in those northerly latitudes and elevated regions in the atmosphere, where almost all vegetation seems to sicken and die, and to leave the indisputed soil to be occupied by the humble and untrodden moss. Birch enjoys a solitary reign on the western and bleak shores of Ross-shire; birch also predominates in Sutherland and Caithness. Birch is the prevailing tree in the frozen regions of Siberia, and prevails over the whole vegetable kingdom in Iceland; some sprigs of birch are even discovered in Greenland. The same congeniality between certain climates and certain natural productions, which is visible in Scotland, is also illustrated in a very particular manner by the gradations from one kind of plant to another, as the curious traveller ascends Mount *Ætna*. Here, at a certain elevation in the atmosphere, immediately above the region of the mountain, which produces grain and fruit trees, the chesnuts, which predominate among

* To the different sorts of game, noticed in the course of the preceding Tour, may be added, that rare and curious bird the “*heathcock*,” of which an accurate representation is given in the annexed plate, and which is described, at length, by Mr. Pennant in his *British Zoology*.



The Mallard.

By Lewis & Dodd, Engravers, F.R.S., 1794.

these, and thrive a little higher upon the mountain than the rest, begin to disappear, and to give place to oaks, which are soon succeeded by the fir, as the fir is by the birch.

“In Scotland, as well as in Sweden and Norway, we every where see fir trees fastening themselves on the naked rocks, which are evidently impregnated with some principle, favourable to the growth of that noble plant. At the depth of twelve and even eighteen feet, we find the remains of trees of much larger size than are now growing in Scotland. At the little kirk of Kilmalie, opposite to Fort William in Lochaber, there was a sycamore tree which was thought worthy of the pencil of Mr. Sandby, but unfortunately the sketch was lost, and the tree itself burnt down by the soldiers in 1746. It was forty feet in circumference at the first branch, and about sixty feet in girth above ground.

“To conclude, the face of Scotland, intersected with navigable rivers, lakes, and arms of the sea, and variegated with mountains, moorlands, and fertile valleys and plains: the face of Scotland, which yields nothing to sloth, but refuses not any boon to the hand of industry, and thus provides for the health and happiness of her sons, inspired the sagacious mind of Aaron Hill with a presage, that this *unripened* beauty will have her day, and even excel her sister England, whom he compares to a gay coquet. Certain it is, that the great manufactures of England have migrated from the eastern and the southern, to the western and the northern coasts of the kingdom. Cheapness of labour, provisions, and fuel, regularity of manners, industry, exemption from heavy taxes, these were the circumstances which effected these vicissitudes, and the same causes will continue to produce the same effects. Human industry levels all the inequalities of nature, and even converts apparent difficulties and impossibilities into the means of answering some useful or elegant purpose. On the bosom of the ocean, which seems destined to keep the nations asunder from each other, the busy merchant wafts home to the shores of the sterile north, the produce of more beautiful climates, which the hardness and activity natural to cold regions convert into articles of convenience and luxurious accommodation. Scotland then, in the career of improvement,

has started in the present auspicious era with peculiar advantages. She looks backward with pride, yet forward with alacrity, and with enlarged views; studies to make the most of her natural produce and local situation, and of the latter too much cannot be said. The world begins now to look for the produce of the mulberry and the cotton tree, to the land of thistles and sloes, and to the fierce Caledonians, for such works of fancy and taste as were formerly expected only from Italy and Greece."

END OF THE TOUR.

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THE END.

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